THURSDAY 5 OCTOBER 1995

HOLIDAYS FOR HE TO BE WON

See page 25 for der

STAPLENT BANKING Your complete guide to the best services

OJ professes love for dead wife as lawyers squabble

TIM CORNWELL RUPERT CORNWELL

"People don't seem to understand that I loved that woman, were OJ Simpson's first words to the world yesterday after he was acquitted of the murders of his ex-wife, Nicole, and her friend, Ronald Goldman.

After rumours of an early press conference, the former sports star only talked briefly about his first night of liberty to

a producer at Cable News Net-work, which had covered most of his trial live. He was very happy, but "I haven't really had a chance to breathe," he was quoted as saying.

"Yesterday there was a festive mood at the house. But at the same time my kids don't have a mother. People don't seem to understand that I loved that

As Los Angeles seemed to breathe a deep sigh of relief yes-terday, a bizarre collection of Angelenos, from the crush of

reporters to a jazz band to women protesting against do-mestic abuse, kept vigil outside the former football star's estate, struggling for a glimpse of him.

A friend of Mr Simpson's

emerged and said he was tired, needed rest, and would stay in seclusion. "The only people who are going to be talking to you are his lawyers."

Mr Simpson's advisers have many reasons to be careful over how they orchestrate his return to the world. Polls yesterday showed that 50 per cent of

a jury in only four hours after a nine-month trial. He still faces civil law suits from the victims' families, and negotiations with the parents of Nicole over the return of the couple's children.

Justin, seven, and Sydney, nine. The subject of the most widely watched trial in US history had not been at liberty five hours when his high-priced defence team began falling out. Robert L Shapiro, the original leader of the defence, yes-

Americans disagreed with the "not guilty" verdict, returned by will not talk to F Lee Bailey again." He said he did not think the man who - at least until Johnny Cochran's advent on the scene - was the most famous trial lawyer in the country

should even have been in court. For Mr Cochran, who supplanted him as lead lawyer, Mr Shapiro also had harsh words, bitterly attacking his use of the race issue in closing arguments and his comparison of a key witness, the former detective Mark Fuhrman, to Adolf Hitler.

All along Mr Shapiro, who is ewish, insisted that race was not a factor. "But not only did we play the race card, we dealt it from the bottom of the deck." As for the Hitler comparison, "I was deeply offended ... with Hitler came the Holocaust, and to compare this man in any way

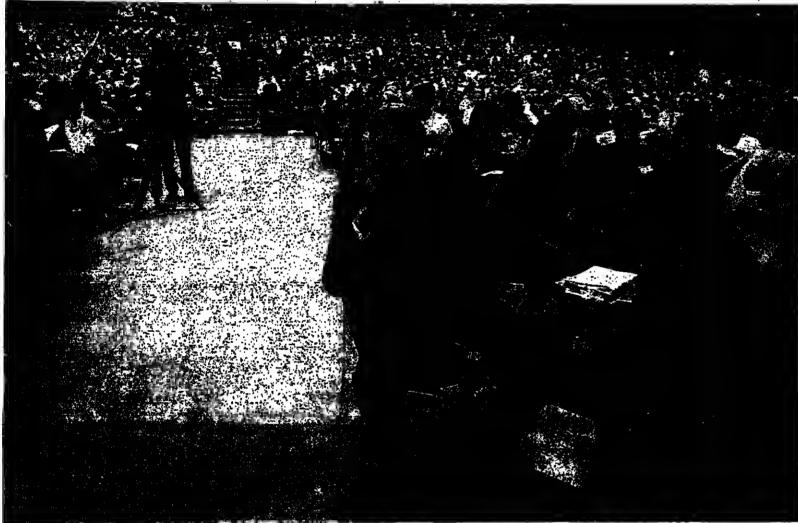
to a rogue cop was wrong."

Mr Cochran hit back, saying: Boh Shapiro has a problem ... his ego has really gotten crushed in the course of this trial ... I feel very sorry for him. Boh is better off on his own."

But at every turn the defence had to the homes of the 12 jurors in the trial, only one - Lionel Cry-er, a 44-year-old hlack teleundermined the credibility of police evidence. The most damag-ing witness, he said, was Dr phone company representative - talked in any depth about their Henry Lee, a defence pathologist who called into question the prosecution's DNA evidence. The jurors celebrated with stunningly quick decision. The first vote by jurors on Monday morning reached a 10 to 2 verdict in favour of acquittal, he said. After rechecking the tes-timony of chauffeur Allan Park,

smoked salmon and champagne at the Intercontinental Hotel on Monday night, staff reported. They had not been allowed al-

cohol since 11 January. The aftermath, page 3 Gary McDowell, page 21



Time out: Roy Hattersley, the former deputy leader, who made his first speech from the floor in 20 years yesterday..... Photograph: John Voos

Blair backed over opt-out schools

DONALD MACINTYRE Political Editor

:kbur

Tony Blair, the Labour leader, yesterday secured an impressive victory over Labour critics of his policy on opt-out schools -only to face a further test for "new". Labour when the conference divides today oo a motion to scrap the Trident nuclear submarine programme.

The victory by a three-to-one majority followed a highly charged debate in which David Blunkett, education spokesman, rounded on Roy Hattersley, former deputy leader, who had called on the party to stop propping up the "failed" system of graot-maintained schools.

role of darling of the party's left wing, received a standing ovation after calling for a concerted drive against the country's remaining 150 grammar schools and declaring: "For God's sake let's stop apologising about comprehensive schools."

But the conference defeated by 76.4 to 23.6 per cent a call for all schools to be returned to direct local authority control after Mr Blunkett pledged the "renewal" of comprehensive education and that schools in the poorest areas would be giv-

en priority in funding.
Instead it approved a oew policy under which the opt-out

Mr Hattersley, in what would schools would be absorbed into have the right to vote oo have once been the implausible a new category of "foundation" whether to retain them. schools" which Mr Blunkett, who was also given a standing ovation, emphasised would be

> Inside Conterence reports pages 10,11

Leading article page 20 Andrew Man page 21

prohibited from any form of selection, academic or "social", by mterview or examination. Parents in the catchment areas of existing grammar schools would

Mr Blunkett scorned those who "believe that they and they alone are the custodians of the Holy Grail".

Bitterness over Mr Blair's decision to send his son, Euan, to the Oratory, a Roman Catholic GM school in west London, surfaced when Margaret Rosher, a retired teacher from Coventry, said she felt a "a great sense of betrayal" at the decision by the party leader and Harriet Harman, employment spokeswoman, to send their children to opt-out schools. But allies of Mr Blair were pleased that most constituency

Meanwhile party managers averted one possible defeat today when the national executive decided not to call today, because of lack of time, two motions seeking a cut in defence spending to the West European average. The executive had voted at the weekend by 14 to 7 to oppose the call. But managers feared a close vote oo a unilateralist motion to scrap Trident, which could be used to undermine Mr Blair's projection of Labour as the "patriotic" par-

ty. They were also predicting a

close vote on the pledge to hold a referendum on electoral re-

against international criminals. The Independent also understands that about 20 officers from MI5 are to help NCIS with surveillance and analysis of dala. The moves follow calls from a growing number of se-nior police officers for a new national tier of detectives.

form after the election - though reformers in the party were still predicting a decisive majority. Earlier this year the cross-party Home Affairs Select

Britain to get FBI-style crime force

they concluded there were dis-

crepancies in his evidence, and

a second vote was unanimous.

Mr Cryer claimed the race

JASON BENNETTO

Britain is to get an FBI-style national crime unit, whose staff will include MI5 agents, under proposals being examined by chief constables. The Independent has learnt that police chiefs and the Home Office are close to agreeing to the radical measure for a task force whose first targets will be organised crime

and major drug traffickers. It is also understood that staff ioin forces with the Home Office's National Criminal Intelligence Service (NCIS) as part of a new role in policing for MI5. The move is likely to be announced next week at the

Conservative Party conference. But in a more far-reaching development, the Home Office has given its support to proposals under debate by chief constables to expand the role and powers of NCIS to include an operational arm in the fight

against organised crime. Details of a new task force at NCIS - which currently has 500 staff and can only carry out limited surveillance and information gathering - will be discussed next week at the Association of Chief Police Officers' autumn conference. It is hoped that eventually the unit will be able to mount operations

the Home Office and giveo the Committee concluded that a na-

Crime Correspondent

tional strategy was oeeded to combat organised crime. Concern is growing that organised criminals are expanding their business in drugs, the sale of firearms, counterfeit currency, mooey lauodering, illegal gambling, prostitution, extortion, fraud, and credit card crime. Last month, Sir Paul Condon, Commissioner of the Metro-

politan Police, gave his support to the formation of a national force oo the lines of the Amerstructure of regionally autooomous police forces was inadequate to deal with sophisticated international drug traffickers and criminals.

Most police chiefs now believe an expansion of NCIS is the answer. Any oew unit is expected to be given greater powers to carry out operations and mobile surveillance. NCIS officers may also have arrest powers conferred upoo them.

Among the other issues un-der discussion are whether NCIS should be separated from

status of a oew police force, which could include its own chief constable and possibly a form of policing authority to which it would be accountable.

As part of an expansion of NCIS, the Government has agreed to extend the role of MIS and allow it to use some officers in traditional policing. At first only about two dozen members of the security service, which employs 2,000, are expected to join. The police fear that Stella Rimington, the MIS director general, will try to use this as the first step towards a far greater role for her organisation. Jim Sharples, the incomiog Acpo president and Chief Constable of Merseyside, refused to comment directly on any plans being considered, but said: "We [Acpo] believe that if the security services are to become involved they have to work in a

supportive role within NCIS." He added that anyone involved in criminal justice must be accountable.

Rimington lecture, page 2

Archdeacon: 'Ambushed'

Nuclear test 'deal'

France carried out its second

nuclear test after securing

agreement from Jacques Santer,

the European Commission

President, that the Commission

would not use European law to

stop the tests, according to a

diplomatic memorandum seen

by the Independent. Page 15

Archdeacon ousted in a very religious coup

parties backed the new policy.

Religious Affairs Correspondent

The Venerable George Austin, the best-known opponent of women priests in the Church of England, is the victim of a coup mounted against him by two of his fellow archdeacons Archideacon Austin sits in the

General Synod, the Church's "Parliament", as representa-

Knights trial halted

IN BRIEF

A police investigation into

rlaims of "improper collusion"

between journalists and wit-

esses was ordered after a judge

halted criminal proceedings

against Geoffrey Knights, lover

of the EastEnders actress Gillian

Taylforth, because he would

not get a fair hearing. Page 2

Comoros coup crushed

French troops landed in the Co-

moros Islands, an archipelago

in the Indian Ocean, and over-

turned a six-day coup led by the

66-year-old former French mer-

because his colleagues, the Ven Christopher Hawthorn, Archdeacon of Cleveland, and the Ven Hugh Buckingham, Archdeacon of the East Riding,

To make matters worse they did not tell Archdeacoo Austin that chooses diocesan bishops,

Sex abuse 'cover-up'

The Irish Catholic Church faced

new claims of covering up sex

abuse by members of its clergy with the revelation that IR£50,000 damages had been

paid to a former altar boy who

alleged he was the victim of ex-

treme sex assaults between the

Teenage Triad recruits

Thenagers from British gangs

are being recruited by Chinese

"Triad" gangsters to help run their criminal empires, a con-

ference of senior police officers

ages of 9 and 11.

appointment.

tive of the three archdeacons of of their decision until after the the diocese of York, but is in deadline had passed for him to danger of being forced ont have a second chance of remaining on the Synod - by standing as a candidate for election by all his fellow clergy.

As one of the longest-serving and most powerful politicians on have refused to endorse his the Synod, he is also a member of the Crown Appointments Commission, the committee

and appoints to the Church Commissiooers. He will he forced to vacate these positions if he is not appointed as repre-sentative of the three archdea-

cons of the diocese of York.

"They ambushed him in a way from which he has no defence," said Fr John Broadhurst. chairman of Forward in Faith. the group that co-ordinates opposition to women priests in the ted adultery.

haved in a way you wouldn't behave to your worst enemies. It is the sort of thing you would expect in Fleet Street but not in the church of Jesus Christ. The whole thing is disgusting."

Archdeacon Austin caused a national storm by suggesting that Prince Charles was unfit to be King because of his admit-

COMMENT

News Analysis: Can the NHS afford its expensive Hamish McRae asks how much promise Labour's telecoms revolution really holds Page 19 OJ go free



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BUSINESS 22-27 COMMENT 20,21 CROSSWORD 32 GAZETTE 18 LAW REPORT 18 LEADING ARTICLES 20 LETTERS 20 NEWS 2-17 OBITUARIES 18 SHARES 26 SPORT 28-32 UNIT TRUSTS 27

cenary, Bob Denard. Page 16 was told.

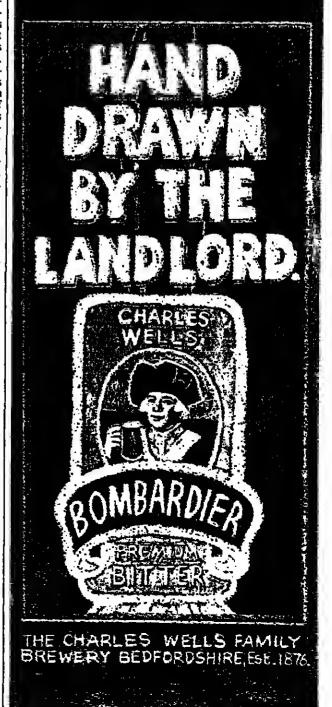


THE SAME OLD SCHOOLTIE

Gary McDowell defends the legal system that let Page 21 AH Halsey reviews John Rentoul's biography of Tony Page 21 Leading article: "Croatia should be told that it can expect no political favours or economic concessions unless the guilty are brought to justice." Page 20 Weather: Most regions in England and Wales will be bright and blustery with sunny spells and showers, mainly in western Section Two, page 33 CHESS 34 CROSSWORD 34 DILEMMAS 6 EDUCATION 12-19



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Papers face inquiry after trial collapses Two held over two delices claimed a major to the police claimed a major to the polic

Media Correspondent

A police investigation into claims of "improper collusion" between journalists and witnesses in a criminal trial was ordered yesterday by the Solicitor General, Sir Derek Spencer.

The move followed the decision by the trial judge, Roger Sanders, to halt proceedings against Geoffrey Knights, the

RHYS WILLIAMS

Newspapers are in breach of the

1981 Contempt of Court Act if

they publish material that car-ries a "substantial risk of prej-

udice" to a fair trial. Lawyers

said yesterday that the only

risk some elements of the press

considered when deciding what

to publish was whether or not

they would be prosecuted.

Judge Roger Sanders ruled

vesterday that the reporting in

national tabloids following Ge-

offrey Knights' arrest last East-

er for assault bordered on

developing into a "hate cam-

paign".
Once Mr Knights had been

charged, the Daily Mirror ran an account of the alleged incident

by the supposed victim, Martin Davies. Today and the Sun also

carried accounts of the alleged

attack, while the Daily Mail

ran an interview apparently

with Gillian Taylforth about

her life with Knights. In it, the writer, Lynda Lee-Potter, men-

tioned an assault on the soap

star, along with Mr Knights' pre-

vious convictions - despite the

fact that Miss Taylforth was a

Sunday Mirror also ran pieces ei-

ther about the alleged inci-

dent, the couple's stormy

relationship or Mr Knights'

past history. Much of this would

have featured in his trial, After granting Mr Knights his

legal costs, the judge added: "I

was tempted to consider mak-

ing a wasted costs order against

the individuals of the press I

penalties than I can impose."

While Judge Sanders is tech-

"However, I think it will de- a greater and greater slide to-

cuted'.'

flect against the real matter ... wards cross-examination of ev-

The Daily Express, Star and

main prosecution witness.

and malicious" pre-trial reporting meant he would not get a fair hearing.

Judge Sanders told Harrow Crown Court that a "grave abuse of process" by the media had forced him to "stay" Mr Knights's forthcoming trial on wounding and assault charges. This is believed to be the first time "adverse publicity" has been successfully cited as the

press reporting of the trial

This summer, however, the At-

torney General refused to bring

contempt proceedings against

the newspapers concerned.

Anthony Scrivener QC, a

former chairman of the Bar,

said it was the Attorney Gen-

eral's past failure to enforce the law that had led to falling stan-

eral, unlike his predecessors, has

continually refused to take ac-

tion in the clearest possible cases of contempt," he said.

"This decision [in the Knights

case) is a direct result of the At-

torney General's maction. If you

have got an Attorney General

who is determined not to an-

tagonise the press or the media

nothing will happen and stan-

presumption of guilt in the

body of newspaper reports and that's the problem."

Keith Mathieson, a partner at the law firm Oswald Hickson, said: "Certain tabloids seem to

say 'Sod the risk to the trial,

However, Sir Derek Spencer,

the Solicitor General, strongly

rejected suggestions that the At-

torney General had failed to up-

what's the risk we'll be prose-

dards will continue to slip."

The present Attorney Gen-

dards in the media.

Gillian Taylforth, because "un-lawful, misleading, scandalous sole reason for ordering crim-inal proceedings to be "stayed", a legal term meaning the case will never be heard.

Sir Derek also directed that the case papers be sent to the Attorney General, Sir Nicholas Lyell, so that he could then consider contempt of court pro-ceedings against the editors of the Sun, Today, Daily Mail, Daily Mirror, Sunday Mirror, the People, Daily Express and Daily

stormy on-off relationship with Miss Taylforth, was charged with causing grievous bodily harm with intent to Martin Davies, the actress's driver, on Easter Sunday this year outside the couple's home in Whetstone, north London. He also faced an alternative charge of unlawful wounding, but had denied both counts at an earli-

er hearing. Following Mr Knight's arrest

Mr Knights, who has had a and police charges, the tabloid Press ran a series of reports carrying accounts of the alleged attack on Mr Davies and of alleged previous violent behaviour towards Miss Taylforth.

"From then on what one would have expected to be treated as sub judice became an opportunity for certain newspaper editors to take it upon themselves to try Mr Knights in their columns without giving him a hearing," the judge said.

After hearing pre-trial sub-missions from both sets of counsel last Friday, Judge Sanders told the court in a highly critical, eight-page judgement yes-terday: "I have absolutely no doubt that the mass of media publicity in this case was unfair.

outrageous and oppressive. "I also believe that there are grounds for instituting proceedings against the editors concerned and there is an urgent need to investigate the possibility that certain journalists have colluded with and suborned prosecution witnesses.

A Mirror Group spokesman denied that any of its titles had published stories with a substantial risk of serious prejudice

to the Knights case.
Paul Dacre, editor of the
Daily Mail, said the newspaper took the Contempt of Court Act very seriously and would be fending our position vigor

Police claimed a major breakthrough in tackling the illegal trade in the "sleeping death" drug Temazepam yesterday after the seizure of £8m worth chike be rel

of capsules.
Officers from the South-east regional crime squad said the 2 million yellow "jellies" found in a lorry on a trading estate near Heathrow were probably destined for Glasgow. Two men were helping with inquiries.

Cancer cure award A British blochemist at the forefront of the battle against cancer will receive the £120,000 Yvette Mayent prize in Paris today from the Curie Institute. Professor David Lane, of Dundee University, discovered protein p53, which is thought to hold the key to a cure.

Supercar theft

A £1m prototype car stolen from a motel car-park off the M2 was recovered in Gillingham, Kent, minus its trailer. The Renault Safrane supercar was being transported from France to Peterborough for tests with a specialist technology firm.

Slug pellet poisoner

A man who admitted trying to poison his former girlfriend with slug pellets was jailed for 18 months. John Mullins, 39, of Palmouth, Cornwall, broke into 21-year-old Anna Whatmore's bome and put granules of the blue pellets into food and drink.

Spiders shut school Children at Bembridge primary school on the Isle of Wight were sent home after pest control officials were called in following an invasion of slightly poisonous steatoda noblis spiders, from the Canary Islands.

Shooting error

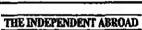
A man was arrested for attempted murder after calling police because he feared raiders were stealing tiles from his home in Aldington, Kent. He mistakenly opened fire with a shotgun on officers who responded. Two officers were treated for shock and a patrol car was damaged.

Tourist record

Britain's summer heatwave drew 2.62 million overseas visitors in July - beating the pre-vious record of 2.58 million in Angust 1994, the International Passenger Survey provisional statistics showed.

Smoked out

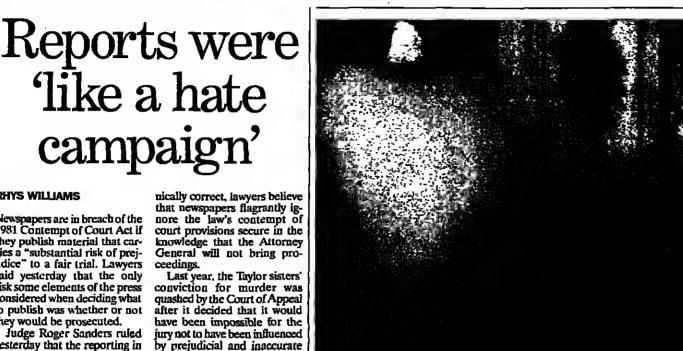
A teenager caught smoking against regulations on a National Express coach was told to get off - 100 miles from home. John Iles, 15, of Mangotsfield, Avon, was dropped outside a police station in Walsall, West



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Out of the shadows: Stella Rimington speaking in London yesterday

HEATHER MILLS Home Affairs Correspondent

Stella Rimington, the head of MI5, yesterday spelt out the security service's credentials for its planned move onto the traditional policing territory of organised crime.

Mark Stephens, the solicitor Speaking in London, she said who acted for the Taylor sisters, the ease and speed of modern welcomed Judge Sanders' rulcommunications and travel, and ing as "a strong judgment by a the weakening of border conbrave judge". He added: "If we find ourtrols, made it inevitable that organised crime, such as drug selves in a position where trials trafficking and money launcannot go ahead, justice will not dering, would continue to grow. he done and guilty people will Countering the threat sucwalk free ... We're now seeing cessfully would require similar

detailing how MI5 had, for the negotiating for an anti-crime cently that there was great past 25 years, co-ordinated intelligence work against both IRA and Loyalist groups in Britain and Europe, - with

"rarely visible" success. The Government has agreed to allow MI5 to expand its role stood to have agreed the move into fighting organised crime, representing a victory for the MIS director-general who, since Paul Condon, the Metropolitan the IRA cease-fire, has been Police Commissioner, said re-

role for officers previously used strength in exploiting the talents on anti-terrorist work.

MI5 chief goes public to

clarify crime strategy

Mrs Rimington employs about 2,000 full-time staff and has an annual budget of £150m. Chief constables are underhut are determined to restrict MIS to a supporting role. Sir

- and powers - of all agencies. But lawyers and civil rights campaigners are concerned about MI5's Jack of public accountability and the culture of secrecy that engulfs the service.

Addressing the English Speaking Union last night, Mrs Rimington said that economic espionage, terrorism, and the

tion weapons - as well as organised crime - were seen as the major threats to national security in the post-Cold War world. Increasingly, MI5 was forging links with other governments and their intelligence agencies to share information on mutual concerns such international terrorist activity. But the new order also "cre-

Photograph: Edward Sykes

proliferation of mass-destruc-

ated conditions which encourage the growth of... 'organised crime'," Mrs Rimington said. She added: "This phenome-non is comparatively new. In many countries, including the UK, its impact and seriousness are still being assessed."

UN set to investigate Gibraltar shootings

HEATHER MILLS

Another embarrassing investi-gation into the SAS killing of the three IRA terrorists in Gibraltar is threatening to engulf the Government, this time by the

methods to those employed in

counter-terrorism, she said.

bold the law and warned the United Nations. press not to try to push the boundaries of what could be re-The families of the three are asking the UN's special rap-porteur on "extra-judicial, sum-"It is absolute nonsense to say mary or arbitrary executions" to investigate the 1988 killings. The move will further infu-

that the Attorney isn't upholding the law. If the media do feel that they can push back the boundaries of the Contempt of riate ministers, still outraged at last week's condemnation by the Court Act 1981, they are mak-European Court of Human ing a hig mistake and they will end up in court." Rights, which concluded that the killings were unlawful and

that the trio could and should have been arrested.

While the rapporteur, Bacre Waly Ndiaye, does not have hinding judicial powers, a damning UN investigation would be very damaging to a government anxious to defend

it human rights record.

It is almost certain he will agree to the inquiry. He is al-ready looking into three indi-vidual killings in Northern Ireland – including the loyalist shooting of the solicitor Pat Finnucane, a case in which it has been suggested that the terrorists were acting in collusion with intelligence personnel.

The families of the Gibraltar ing in the SAS, have never IRA unit have turned to the been examined - either by the UN, because they maintain that - despite the Strasbourg judgment - a "cover-up at the highest level" has still blocked a thorough investigation.

The use of Public Interest Im-

munity certificates - effectively gagging orders signed by ministers - has prevented investigation into anything other than the immediate events leading up to the killings on the Rock The longer-term planning of the operation by military and security service intelligence, including a crucial meeting of ministers which sanctioned call-

inquest into deaths or by the human rights judges. The families maintain it would disclose a pre-planned plot to kill the three a scenario ruled out by the

European Court. Neither has anyone heard evidence from the Spanish police whose account of tailing the three to the border and, effectively, handing them over to the British authorities, flatly contradicts the official account that one of the trio Sean Savage drove what was believed to be a "bomb car" on to the Rock un-

Ever since Savage, Mairead Farrell, and Daniel McCann were brought down in a hail of hullets on 6 March 1988, doubts over the official version of their deaths have baunted the

Ministers had hoped that the European Court would have the last word on the matter. But it now seems certain to

Yesterday, Niall Farrell, brother of Mairead, said: "We simply want the whole truth. The UN, we hope, can get to the bottom of this scandal, which we firmly believe leads to the heart of the British Establishment."

MISS GRRRIMALDI but never miss GRRRAHAM'S Just roll it round your tongue

German court agrees to Leeson extradition

DAVID HELLIER

A German court yesterday approved the extradition to Singapore of Nick Leeson, the former Barings futures trader, to face 11 charges connected

with the bank's collapse.
The decision by the Frankfurt
Regional Court does not mean immediate extradition for Mr Leeson but it looks increasingly likely now that he will even-tually face trial in Singapore. Yesterday's decision still has to be reviewed by the German

government in Bonn and Mr Leeson's lawyers have made it clear that they will appeal to the German Federal Constitution-

pected, yesterday upheld Mr Leeson's extradition on three Leeson's extradition on three charges of forgery, two of de-frauding Barings Futures Sin-gapore and six of defrauding the Singapore International Mon-etary Exchange. The court dis-missed a charge of falsification of documents, ironically the one on which Mr Leeson was first held when he was arrestfirst held when he was arrest-ed in Germany in March.

The Frankfurt public prosecutor, Hans-Hermann Eckert, said the court had considered



Singapore's legal standards and had received a report from the German embassy.
Mr Eckert held out little

chance of the defence being able to block extradition to Singapore. "The chances not to go to Singapore are very small," he said. He said that his view was that Mr Leeson was certain to get a fair trial in Singapore.

Stephen Pollard, Mr Lee-son's UK solicitor, said he was obviously disappointed by the decision of the German court. "There are clear grounds of appeal against the decision to extradite in respect of at least eight of the remaining charges," he

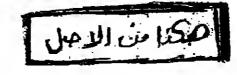
"This appeal will be pursued by way of reference by the Fedwill be submitted within the permitted one month time limit.

Legal sources suggested that the German constitutional court might take up to two months to decide whether the defence had an admissible case for appeal and that if it agreed to an appeal being heard the whole process could take up to a year. But there is a growing possibility that Mr Leeson's extradition could come in weeks, rather than months.

Meanwhile, in London, sources close to the Serious Fraud Office hinted that it would try later this week, possibly via a court appearance, to prevent a group of Barings bond-holders from pursuing a private prosecution against Mr Leeson, which would involve a trial in the UK.

The bond-holders managed to persuade the City of London Magistrates' Court to accept eight summonses against Mr Leeson but the SFO has made clear that it wants to take over the case and drop it.

Sources close to the SFO have said that they wish to assist the Singapore authorities in ensuring the trial takes place



GRÄ́Ḧ́AM'S



Children may be returned to their father

TIM CORNWELL Los Angeles

Supercut then

Sho and one

rt agre

tradition

The family of Nicole Brown Simpsoo signalled yesterday that they may be prepared to return Justin Simpson, seven, and Sydney, nine, to the care of their father, rather than subject them to a bitter legal tug-of-war

Lawyers for both sides were talking about a reunion and a possible joint custody agree-

After his acquittal on Tuesday, OJ Simpson made it clear that he inteoded to ask for custody of his childreo. "My first obligation is to my young childreo, who will be raised in the way that Nicole and I had always planned," he said in a statement read by a son from his first mar-

riage, Jason. The fate of the two children is now an emotive issue, promis-ing to be the latest poignant episode of the OJ Simpson soap opera.

They were upstairs sleeping wheo Nicole and her friend, Ron Goldman, were hrutally murdered in a hloody struggle

in the grounds of her home.

While the family of the other victim, Roo Goldman, have made no secret of their belief that Simpsoo is guilty, Nicole's pareots have been much more

Her father, Lou Brown, said he was prepared to "assimilate" with the father of his grandchildren. "A reason a lot can be overlooked is the children," he said. "The childreo are our lives."

The Brown family are still party to a civil law suit filed against Simpson for damages from their daughter's death, but its fate is vocertain.

They would "pack those kids' bags and, with all the class and dignity they have, send them back ... They did not disparage O.J ... They will come home to a father that they love," a family friend told the Los Angeles Times.



Flowers on Nicole Brown Simpson's grave yesterday

Simpson to reclaim the children immediately. "He would like to get acquainted with the children again ... I think he is reasonable eoough to know that the children have a good life here, that they find strength and love in this house."

Ms Brown said that they had informed the two small children of the outcome as sooo as they returned to their Southern California home. "Yes, we told them 'Daddy's

free' They were happy. They love Daddy. We have never said anything oegative about Daddy to them," she said: "Our grandchildren now have a father that's a free man,

whereas they have no mother regardless of her situation. But at least they have one parent to back up their life," Nicole's father added. Legal analysts said that al-

though Mr Simpson had been declared innocent of any crime, evidence from the murder trial could be introduced into a custody fight, and could weigh

recorded during emergency phone calls that Nicole made to he Los Angeles police.

Sydney and Justin have been living with their grandparents in conservative Orange County where Nicole grew up. On visits to the local super-

market, the family called ahead to arrange for any tabloids and magazines which were carrying harid coverage of the OJ murder case to be removed from the

The Browns were granted temporary custody of the chil-dren when Mr Simpson was first held in jail. In court papers, Mr Simpsou's lawyers made it clear that he expected "to resume his legal and physical custody ... upon his release from incar-ceration". Although Mr Simp-soo talked to the childreo once a week by phone, they did oot visit their father.

Faye Resnick, a friend of Nicole's who wrote a sensationalist book about her life, apparently spoke for many family members when she said: "Oh God! Nicole was right, She said he was going to kill her and get away with it. He always said he was above the law."

Priends of the couple disagree about how much attention the children actually received before and after the couple

Nicole, who enjoyed the high life among the Los Angeles party set, used to drive the children around in a white Perrari paid for by Mr Simpson, full of family litter, coins and toys. "That was the car ... It just so happened that her statioo wagon was a Ferrari," said her sister Dominique Brown.

The children come up fre-

quently in recorded telephone conversations between the Simpsons, revealed at the trial. "Please leave, OJ. Please, the kids; the kids are sleeping." Nicole is beard saying in one

A voice identified as OJ's comes back: "You didn't give a



Juditha Brown, said yesterday that would include taped that she did not expect Mr evidence of a violent abuse were facking in the living room. Who cared for the kids then?"

On their way home: OJ Simpson with his children Sydney (left) and Justin after attending that the case was "absolutely not a funeral service for their mother"

That would include taped were facking in the living room. Who cared for the kids then?"

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Police morale shattered by acquittal

Los Angeles - The officers of the Los Angeles Police Department, who apparently believed almost to a man that OJ Simpson was guilty well beyond reasonable doubt, were yesterday given the job of closing the streets and shooing off onlookers as he partied inside the walls of his Los Angeles estate, Tim Cornwell writes.

With detectives' morale shattered by the acquittal, the department faced calls for a new investigation of the murders of Nicole Simpson and Rooald Goldman. And in Washington the US Justice Department has promised to push ahead with investigating the allegations of po-lice misconduct that were raised in the trial.

Los Angeles police were stunned and hitter over the verdict, believing that there was more than enough evidence for a conviction. But the only juror to give ao extensive account of the jury's deliberations yesterday laid the hlame squarely oo doubts about the

"It was garbage in, garbage out," said juror No 6, Liooel Cryer, in an interview with the Los Angeles Times.

The jury felt that the police had such a had track record that they could have set out to oail OJ Simpson at all costs, he said. In particular, Mr Cryer mentioned the claim made by Mr Simpson's defence that crucial blood samples had been cootaminated,

It seemed that the allegations of institutionalised racism, which have dogged the Los Angeles police since the videotaped beating of Rodney King, had weighed heavily with the elder of the two white women oo the jury, Anise Ascheobach, 60.

Ms Aschenbach thought that Mr Simpson had probably committed the murders, her daughter, Devise said. But "this was the only answer they could come up with because the involvement with [former Detective Mark] Fuhrman in the case somehow screwed up the evideoce."

The Los Angeles police chief,



Furhman: Former detective

ment. The results of this trial are oot going to result in the re-huilding of the LAPD". The mayor, Richard Riordan, urged the city to look at officers who "protect and serve Angelenos with honour".

But hlack community leaders called on the district attorney to investigate Mr Fuhrman for perjury. Mr Fuhrman had pleaded his constitutional right to refuse cross-examication of his claim that he not used the word "nigger" in 10 years and his own boasts of tampering with evidence.

The defence suggested that the two senior officers, Mr Fuhrman and Detective Mark Vao Atter, were driven by racism to fabricate evidence against Mr Simpson, planting hlood samples and a glove that were fouod at his estate.

"Mark Fuhrman confirmed what most African-Americans have felt right aloog and known all along," John Mack, the president of the Urban League, said. "In South-Central Los Angeles, ton many Mark Fuhrmans have harassed and hrutalised people," he said. In media interviews, one po-

lice officer after another vented their frustratioos in a department that has suffered one self-delivered blow to its the point," said one. "Let's fold up the tent."

Verdict highlights racial split and puts legal system in dock

What the American papers said

Los Angeles Times

"Los Angeles wakes op today to an unsettling reality. It is a city m a nation so divided that we cannot even agree on what we all see when we look at the same picture. One of the unre repellent reactions to the verdict was the loud cheering that crupted in the street outside."

DAILY NEWS

"The trial of the century has ended in the Travesty of the Century. No amount of cheering, to celebrations, no give can change that. Drowned out by the exultations is a much more telling sound: the sobs of the

The New York Times

"Whatever one thinks about the shockingly swift acquitial of O.I.
Simpson, this "trial of the century" has left a stigma on criminal justice that could take years to repair. In the end, this will be remembered as case that was disrupted by the police."

The Washington Post

"These who were shacked by the verdict are likely to demand wholese revisions in the criminal inside system. This is a dangerous enterprise, a time when amortons can hep. The protections afforded defendants a American courts, exist to guarantee a fair trial to rich celebrities and common folks affice."

Richmond Times Dispatch

The verdict will undermine the faith of some in our criminal justice system - and for others it will restore a faith lost too long. The jury was unprepared to convict a man it may jurise egarded so gully. That is the system working - albeit in a differentiative way.

RUPERT CORNWELL

President Bill Clinton is considering publicly addressing the issue of the racial divisions in America laid bare once again in the closing stages of the OJ Simpson trial.

The Simpson story might have been knocked from its perch on top of the oews buletins by the advance of Hurricane Opal on northern Florida, but the impact of the case on the already frayed racial fabric of the country may, in its own way, be oo less threatening.

Poli after poll showed the jury's decision has done virtually nothing to reduce the gulf between the races' views about the guilt of the former football star. According to a CBS survey, six out of 10 whites believed the verdict was wrong, while nine hlacks out of 10 considered it correct. Overall, the country disagrees with the verdict by a margin of 56 per cent to 33 per cent, USA Today poll found.

Across the country afterwards, the scenes everywhere were the same: groups of jubi-lant blacks erupting into cheers, whites mostly sombre and stunned by disbelief. For blacks, the case has confirmed that only

vented a "rush to judgement" against him; cynical whites are convinced that a jury containing nine blacks allowed itself to be swayed by racial factors.

That was rejected by the ooe juror who has spokeo publicly so far, Lionel Cryer. Mr Cryer, who is hlack, said that race had been "barely a hlip" in their de-cision, which was shaped by weaknesses in the prosecution's case. But on one point everyone is agreed: race relations have been damaged by the affair.

statement from Mr Clinton, urging his countrymen to re-spect the jury's verdict. Officials say the President is considering an address urging barmony and reconciliation.

The other prime casualty of the case is the US legal system itself. The outcome, declared the Philadelphia Inquirer, "is hound to fortify the ootion that justice is for sale in America, that a 'dream team' can get anyone off anything".

Poisoning everything is the majority's suspicion that a murderer has walked free. This is ev ident from bitter jokes making the rounds, among them a sup posed oew slogan for Hertz rental cars, which Mr Simpsoo once advertised: "We guarantee Mr Simpson's ability to pay for to get you to the airport with an

So much was evident in the

Case puts court TV on trial

Legal Affairs Correspondent

English lawyers may have shuddered at the television images of the OJ trial, but they draw different conclusions from what

they saw. One school of thought believes the trial showed that a me-dia circus is the inevitable consequence of opening up courtrooms to television camcras, and that it is now unlikely to happen. The other view is that television is neutral, and what has been exposed are the deficiencies of Californian justice, not the effects of courtroom

cameras. Cameras are banned io courts in England and Wales. There was an experiment with a recorded trial in Scotland

this year, but the senior English judiciary is divided on the issue. The Master of the Rolls, Sir Thomas Bingham, favours an experiment in civil courts to encourage understanding of the way they operate. The Lord Chief Justice, Lord Taylor, op-poses televising criminal trials.

Stephen Kay QC, secretary of the Criminal Bar Association, said yesterday that if cameras were allowed in English courts, there would be accompanying commeotary, and the participants in the trial would have to have the right to explain their conduct. "Inevitably you would end up influencing juries with material from outside the court-

He said there was already a problem with press coverage, but the effect of television oo for 70 per cent of the popula-

people was qualitatively different from print. He added that the presence of cameras would affect the way people behaved giving evidence. "Even if it was not shown until after the verdict, somebody is going to be influenced by the thought that 10 million people will see them." The Bar Council spent a

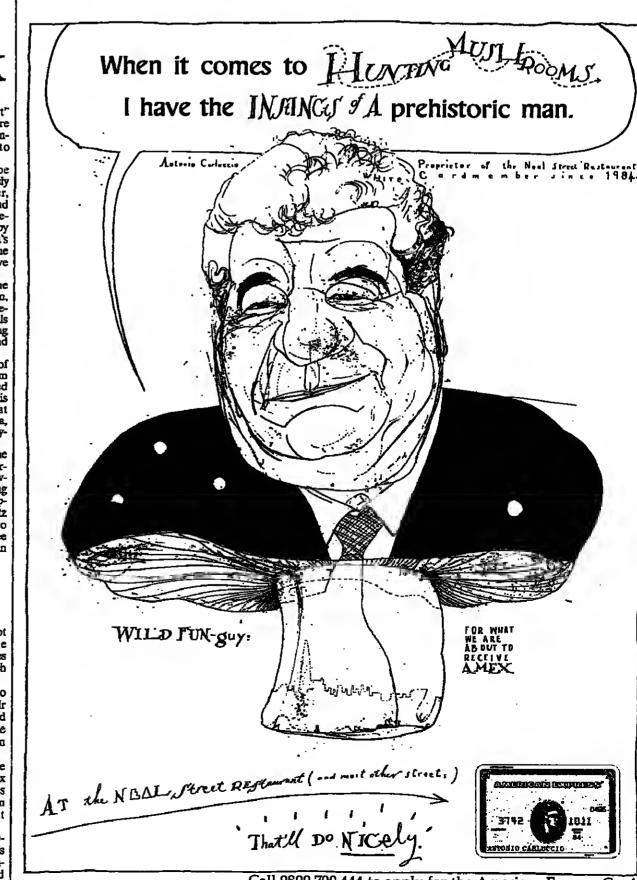
vear in the late 1980s studying the likely effects of televising trials, and recommended it should be tried, although for education, not entertainment. Jonathan Caplan QC, who chaired the investigation, said: "Television coverage of the OJ trial has probably been one of the better ways of keeping people informed of the daily progress." Television could not be ignored; it was the main source of oews

tion. In Britain there would no be a media circus because the same cootempt of court rules would apply to television which limit newspapers now.

"I agree television needs to be introduced with caution," Mr Caplan said. "The judge could kick out the cameras at any time if he decided they were not in the interests of justice."

The case has also raised the question of juries in complex cases. Mr Kay believes juries sometimes make decisioo on conscience grounds, and that has to be accepted.

Another senior QC, Anthony Scrivener said the OJ jury's decision was perfectly reasonable on the evidence they had been given "An English jury would probably have found him innocent too, on the evidence,"



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Irish church hit by sex abuse cover-up claim

ALAN MURDOCH

The Irish Catholic Church faced new claims of covering up sex abuse by members of its clergy with the revelation yesterday that IR£50,000 in damages had been paid to a former Duhlin altar boy who alleged he was the victim of a series of extreme sexual assaults between the ages of

The damages, plus IR£6,000 in costs, were paid following a 1993 claim by Alan O'Sullivan. now a 33-year-old architectural draughtsman from the Navan

of assaults including buggery, rape, extreme sexual perversion and violent sexual ahuse inflicted by a former curate, Fr Patrick Hughes.

During one assault in the priest's house he allegedly strangled and almost choked the boy. When Mr O'Sullivan finally told his parents, his father approached church authorities who assured him the matter would he dealt with.

It is understood the priest was

living in a Redemptorist community in Dublin since 1993. When the settlement was

arranged, lawyers for the church maintained it had no "vicarious The latest case casts further

doubt on the account given by the Archbishop of Duhlin, Dr Desmond Connell, in an interview on Monday. Then, refer-ring to the case of Fr Charles Payne who was loaned IR£27,500 by the church to pay a settlement of a civil sex abuse claim, Dr Connell said: "I had It was alleged that in the eariy Seventies he suffered a series
of assaults including the series no precedent to guide me what-

The newly-appointed Jesuit spokesman for the Duhlin Archdiocese, Fr John Dardis, claimed yesterday that Dr Connell had been speaking solely about the provision of a loan from the diocese. This was horne out, he said, by the fact that Fr Hughes had had to pay his own settlement.

However, Mr O'Sullivan's solicitor, Julian Deale, high-lighted the unusual speed of the settlement in 1993. His understanding was that he was dealconsultant, but was judged fit to ing with the church itself, and the senior legal a continue his ministry. Now in his had only come into contact early retirement.

late stage in negotiations.

In an interview in June 1993, Dr Connell said he had dealt with "three or four" allegations of sex abuse against priests in his diocese, none of which went to court, hut declined to

Fr Dardis said it was likely more cases of similar sex abuse would now come to light, giv-en the US experience where initial revelations encouraged more victims to come forward. "I would expect quite frankly that there would be more alle-gations made. Based on experience in the US we're not through this yet. There will

most likely be more."

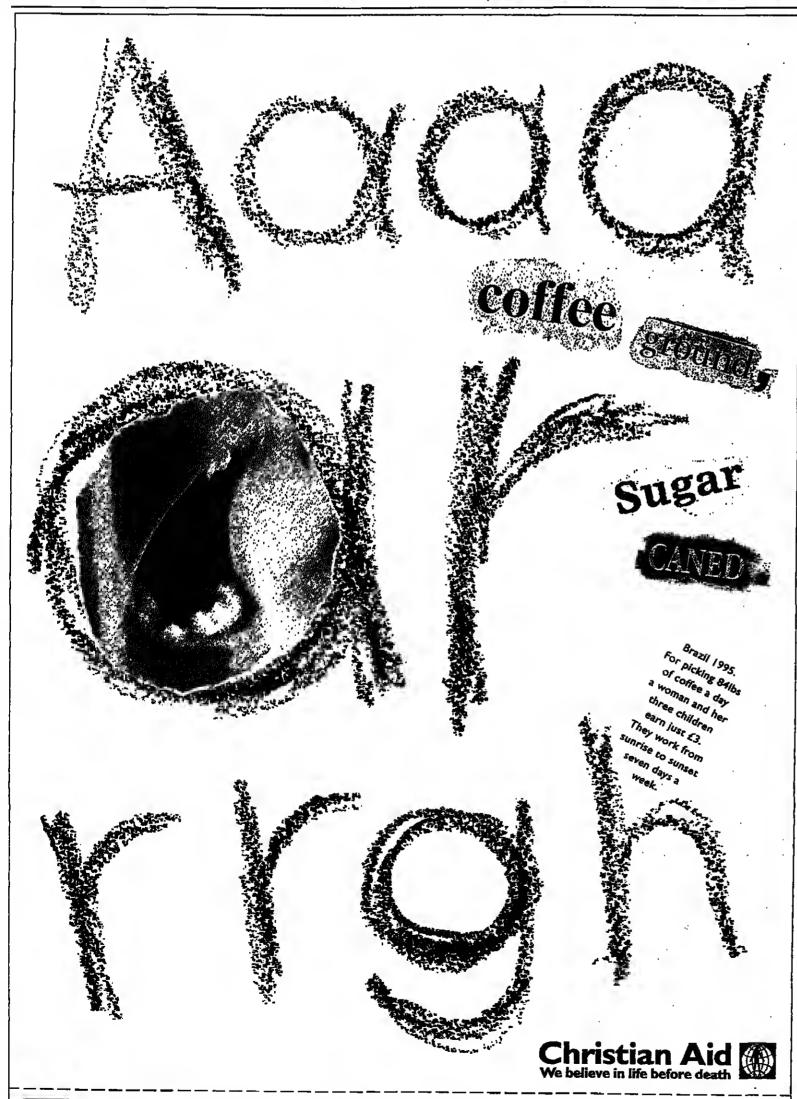
According to the Irish Times,
Mr O'Sullivan complained about the assaults to gardai in Cabra, north Dublin, who said later that the Director of Public Prosecutions had decided

against proceedings.

In October the failure of the Attorney General's office to process a child sex abuse extradition application in the case of paedophile priest Fr Brendan Smyth led to the fall of the last Irish coalition. In a reorganisation of the office soon after. the senior legal assistant took



A time to harvest: The Rev Robert Middlewick blessing the vineyard at Lamberhurst, Kent, for the start of grape picking yesterday. The owners are expecting the crop to be one of the best for many years because of the hot, dry summer Photograph: Glynn Griffiths are expecting the crop to be one of the best for many years because of the hot, dry summer



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Lamont challenges his neighbour to a duel

STEVE BOGGAN

Norman Lamont, whose constituency has been scrapped in boundary changes, will tonight begin a fight for political survival described by fellow Tories as

"touch and go". The former Chancellor will challenge his nearest neigh-bour, fellow Conservative Richard Tracey, to represent the new constituency of Kingston

In a duel that began in friendeach of the MPs will try to conpaid-up Tory members that he the best man to represent them in Parliament. Under Conservative Party rules, Mr Lamont, whose Kingston-upon-Thames constituency will cease to exist before the next election, is entitled to challenge for any seat that absorbs any part of his

former territory.

that Mr Lamont had chosen to take him on.

[Surbiton] is intact and its elec-. torate forms 65 per cent of the new constituency," he said. "Norman is entitled to challenge for it, but I was surprised that he did. The closing date for ap-plications was 6 September but I saw him on the 5th and he

ship but threatens to turn sour, since, but he hasn't said anything. We just don't talk about vince a meeting of up to 1,000 it. He's written to me now, but the whole thing is a bit

Each man is considered popular in his own constituency, but Mr Lamont's open criticism of John Major and his support for John Redwood's summer challenge for the party leadership is proving to be a double-edged

cumbent, Mr Tracey, declared himself "surprised" yesterday constituency, one of its branch

"All of my old constituency "There is so much apathy at

didn't even mention it. "I've seen him several times.

When rumours began circu-

constituency, one of its branch secretaries, Michael Bilton, was reported as saying: "Tony Blair has more chance.

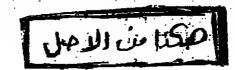
In Surbiton, however, there was a strong anti-Major feeling during the summer which could stand Mr Lamont in good stead.

the moment that it might persuade some people to vote for him, said Eunice Paxman, president of the Kingston and Surbiton Conservative Association. "At the time of the challenge, we were split over it but there was a big move for Mr Redwood. It may actually stand

"It isn't possible to say how the vote will go here but it will be touch and go. Both men are

If he fails to be selected, Mr Lamont may have to look elsewhere to secure his political future. His name has already been linked with a variety of





he visited a British friend at an-

other hotel whom he later paid

returned and told me that there was nothing to worry about as

he had already got rid of Lowe's hody ... by throwing it into a river," Mr Martin said in

"On returning to my hotel

room, I found everything neat and tidy," he said. "Mr Lowe's

body was no longer there." Po-

lice said Mr Martin was asked

to identify the friend and

replied: "I cannot tell you his

identity because if he knew he

would harm my family back in

Police witnesses testified on

Tuesday that when he was ar-

rested, Mr Martin had several

longed to Canadians Sheila

Mac Damude and her son

Darin, whose dismembered

bodies were found in Phuket,

Thailand, in March. Thai police

have issued a warrant for Mr

Asked about the Canadians

whose passports he was carry-

ing. Mr Martin said that he had

never met them. He said they

had been given to him by his

Martin's arrest.

British friend.

"Some time later ... my friend

to clear up the mess.

the statement.

Britain.

Briton claims

hotel killing

was self-defence

Singapore (Reuter) – A Britoo peted floor," Mr Martin said, accused of murdering a South African tourist and dumping his panicked." Mr Martin, 35, said

dismembered corpse in the har-

bour here told police he killed

in self-defence, a court heard

yesterday. The defendant

claimed a friend, whom he re-

fused to identify, later disposed

death sentence if convicted by

the Singapore court of mur-

dering hrewery engineer Ger-ard George Lowe, 32. The

prosecution alleges Mr Martin,

used a false name checked in to

the same hotel room as Mr

Lowe on 8 March and later

murdered him. Police said Mr

Martin admitted he killed Mr

Lowe just after he checked in to the room, which they had

agreed to share to save money.

Mr Martin's written state-

ment was read out in court by

was an unpremeditated re-

sponse to unwaoted homosex-

ual advances, police said. He had said that Mr Lowe at-

tacked him with his own camp-

ing hammer before dropping it

and I used the hammer ... to hit

him several times on the head

until he collapsed on to the car-

"He then came towards me

Mr Martin claimed the killing

an investigating officer.

of the body, police said. John Martin, also known as John Martin Scripps, faces the

'New Statesman' charter torn up

CHRIS BLACKHURST Westminster Correspondent

The crisis at New Statesman & Society will take another twist today when Philip Jeffrey, its socialist millionaire major shareholder, returns to take day-to-day control.

Speaking to the Independent from Cyprus, where he has been on holiday, before flying back to Britain. Mr Jeffrey offered no guarantees as to the fu-ture of the troubled magazine's staff and said he was tearing up its old hallowed constitution.

This followed last week's dramatic intervention by Mr Jeffrey, who for the past two years has acted like an absentee landlord, when he forced the resignation of its entire board. He took that decision after becoming fed up with newspaper reports that directors were putting together a refinancing package, one of the prices of which would be the removal of Steve Platt, his ally as editor.

"I will oot finance a divided house any more. I will say to staff you can either work with me or get oo your bikes'," he said yesterday.

Having put £600,000 in to the magazine two years ago to no profitable result, he is reluctant to spend any more, Instead, he going to Brighton to the Labour conference to launch what he calls Operation Phoenix, attracting 1,500 investors offering £1,000 each to create a new New Statesman.

If he cannot persuade enough investors, Mr Jeffrey, who made his fortune from developing the FADS DIY chain, will make up the shortfall to the £1.5m estimated to be the cost

of re-launching the magazine. The title & Society, acquired when the New Statesman

ingesh

) a duel



Hot Issue: Friday's edition nears completion. There are re-launch plans, to make the magazine 'more businesslike'

merged with New Society, will a new, more business-like mag-go. Also to be scrapped, ac-azine, with a new set of rules. cording to Mr Jeffrey, will be the magazine's constitution, first drawn up by George Bernard Shaw, its founder, in 1913, "The old New Statesman, with a constitution written by Shaw and re-

vised by John Maynard Keynes, In its place, he said, would be

This could put Mr Jeffrey, who holds 49 per cent of the shares, on collision course with the other shareholders. Under its rules, the New Statesman has five trustees who hold special "E" shares guaranteed to protect editorial independence.

calling for the resignation of the board last week, three directors have left and the rest will tender their resignations at a board meeting on Tuesday. Brian Basham, one of the directors who was trying to drive through a series of reforms and a refinancing package, yesterday said ect editorial independence.
Since he announced he was unhappy with Mr Jeffrey's behaviour. Mr Basham

will resign next Tuesday but only with a lawyer present as a witness to ensure there is no misunderstanding over the reasons for his and the other directors' departures, Mr Basham said he was "very pleased Philip Jeffrey is at last taking over. It just irritates me he has chosen to do so in an egotistical and precipitative manner". Referring to

the way Mr Jeffrey defeated Derek Coombs, former Tory MP, to take control of the New Statesman in 1993, Mr Basham said that there was now "the

Photograph: Geraint Lewis

paradoxical situation where a professed socialist and puritan wants to act in a more Draconian and Thatcherite manner than even an ex-Conservative

Books 'speed up babies' development'

on the floor.

WENDY BERLINER

Giving books to babies as young as nine months accelerates their development, concentration and ability to relate to others, according to preliminary results of

research done in Birmingham. The study, by Barrie Wade, reader in English and Education at Birmingham University, and Maggie Moore, senior lecturer at Newman College, also in Birmingham, is based on a continuing study of two sets of three-year-olds from a wide range of backgrounds.

took part in a one-off pro-

were given material which included a child's book, tips on how

to share a book with a haby and details of how to join the library. The other set consisted of children born at the same time who did not take part in Bookstart. In all, 57 three-year-olds were monitored. Two out of five

of the families gave books a low

priority, most of them non-Bookstart families. Only one in 10 of this group gave books as presents - they were more likely to give sweets. Dr Wade said: "Babies have enormous potential. They need

intellectual stimulus as much as they need their nappy changing and the right diet. **Education, Section Two**

Fading glory of a socialist beacon that cast its light around the world

1913: New Statesman founded and financed by George Bernard Shaw (right), and Sidney and Beatrice Webb to promote Fabian Socialism.

1930s: Magazine enters golden seniod with Kingsley Martin as editor and
contributions from the likes of Bertrand.
Russell, EM Forster and Keyries AS is

staurichty pacifist and anti-impenalist. 1957: Stirring I B Priestley article acts.

Niverence of Tangaryska, paying tripona to NS's massive influence.

1966: Croulation peaks at 96,000 with NS required reading for liberal, left of centre intellectuals.

1970: Richard Grossman (right) becomes editor Magazine stants to concentrate on internal Labour issues and wrangings. Begins downward path:

1982: Bruke Page voted out of the editor's chair by the board after disastrous.

and Society.

1990; Staff buyout purs little known.
Steve Platt (night) into editions chair occe occupied by Anthony Howard.
Paul Cohnson, John, Freeman, and Thigh Stephenson as well as Cross.

men and Meron.
1993: Socialist millionaire Philip Jetirey beats Derek Coorbis, former Con-In birthday celebrations say socialist leading around. 1988; New Statesman with circulation down to 26,000 merges. 1995; Jeffrey to cost estimation of board and takes over day including the Indian prime minister Nehru and Julius. With New Society which has seen its circulation slump to 22,000. To day control and large plan.

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Chinese Triads recruit young British thugs

JASON BENNETTO Crime Correspondent

Teenagers from British gangs are being recruited by Chinese "Triad" gangsters to help run their criminal empires, ia conference of senior police officers was told yesterday.

Detective Inspector Andrew Rennison, bead of the Chinese intelligence unit within the Metropolitan Police, described four Triad societies which operate throughout the country, with strongholds in London. Southampton, Manchester. Northampton and Glasgow. He estimated that there were up to 200 core Triads, and predicted that the number of gang mem-bers would quickly rise if there is a large influx of people from Hong Kong when China takes over the colony in 1997.

However, a recent trend noted by his team was the recruitment of non-Chinese teenagers into the Triad movement. In a recent case, 20 members of a gang in Croydon, south London, aged from 13 to 15, were recruited by Triads through Chinese youngsters.

The teenagers, both black and white, had been used by the Triad in crimes, mainly centred in London's Chinatown. "The teenagers enjoy the

danger and are attracted by the The police conference also gang's violent image," said DI Rennison. Vietnamese and Malaysian

Triads, which have loose links outdoor ranges and have to rely

with Hong Kong gangs, are in-volved in a number of illegal activities within the country's 200,000 Chinese community, including gamhling, vice, and il-legal immigration and passport fraud. Protection rackets, loan sbarking, credit-card fraud, counterfeiting and drugs also form a major part of the gangs'

"We know who the leaders are, and the main players, but. witnesses are very difficult to come by and are usually frightened," said DI Rennison, In one case a witness was attacked and left for dead by a gang wielding meat cleavers.

Speaking at the Police Superintendents' Association of England and Wales' annual conference at Market Bosworth, Warwickshire, the Detective Inspector said the Triads encouraged their image of being extremely violent and organised to belp them terrorise their own communities. However, they were often chaotic and loosely knit.

DI Rennison did not believe there would be a massive surge of new Triads coming to the UK after Hong Kong goes back to the Chinese, "Hong Kong is too big a gold mine to leave," be said. "The real threat comes from the domestic Triads."

heard that many forces now have sub-standard facilities for firearms training. Only a third young men from Britain were of the police forces in England also being targeted. The British and Wales have their own

on Ministry of Defence facilities, which are often unsuitable.

Superintendent Mike Waldren, head of the Metropolitan Police firearms unit, said: "In some cases the conditions the instructors have to work under are difficult to say the least. One force has an outdoor range overgrown with trees and

"With the increase in the peace dividend, the MoD is sbedding assets - that includes ranges. Range availability will reduce and this is a fact."

The importance of after-care for officers involved in shooting incidents was also stressed by DI Rennison. As a possible consequence of ignoring the problem. he pointed to a recent out-ofcourt settlement of £250,000, paid by the MoD to a soldier who hrought a civil action against the Army for failing to provide support in dealing with trauma after the Falklands war.



Appliance of science: Charles Babbage's 19th-century Difference Engine No 1 was sold at Christie's in London yesterday for £176,750. His son Henry assembled this section from the original components. Its principles form the core of all modern computing Photograph: Edward Webb

Cookson's romance fails to tempt students

LOUISE JURY

Her legions of fans have made her the most popular author in Britain's libraries. Sales of more than 90 million books have placed her among the country's wealthiest women

So when Leeds University advertised its course on the social, historical and literary aspects of the works of the historical-saga writer Dame Catherine Cookson they thought they were on to a winner.

"She's a local writer and she's hugely popular," said Samantha Fielding, adminis-trative officer for the university's department of adult

continuing education. For one afternoon a week for a term, the course was worth 10 credits towards 120 needed for the first part of a full university degree.

But only one person enrolled, and the course has been

"The minimum number needed was 10. But if we can get enough we'll try again in January. We did it once before, last year, and got enough people then," Ms Fielding said.

But others were not convinced. AR Beven - whose novel The Seldom Girls was released under his initials by publishers who believed women would not buy romance from a man - said: "Comparing Catherine Cookson with, for example, 19th-century novelists might be interesting, but if all you have to do to get 10 credits is regurgitate the plots then it's not worth it."

Elizabeth Buchan, chairman of the Romantic Novelists' Association, said: "Romantic fiction contains some of the big novels like Jane Eyre and Far From the Madding Crowd, and it's a great adore a good story.



Dame Catherine Cookson Traditional story-teller

tradition, but it's been hijacked by Mills and Boon ... But to take Catherine Cookson as a complete lodestone would be mad. Her clogs-to-credit-card kind of feel is the stuff of traditional romantic fiction but she's not the whole story by any means."

Joanna Briscoe, who won the 1993 Betty Trask award for "traditional" or "romantic" fiction with her novel Mothers and Other Lovers, was "not surprised if only one person wants to take the course". She said: "I'm all for studying commercial fiction and I think we should certainly question our notions of what great writing is. But it's silly to choose one author."

Dame Catherine herself, bowever, was thrilled that Leeds was still hoping to get the course underway. She already receives letters from schools which use ber books as a sub-ject for study. "I think it's mar-vellous," the 89-year-old writer said. "I am a story-teller. I

Yardie gangster is jailed for 14 years

A "yardie" gang member who told a judge that he had been lured to Britain and "set up" in an armed robbery was jailed for 14 years yesterday.

Rohan Thomas, 37, was sentenced at Leeds Crown Court for his involvement in the "terrifying" attack at a warehouse party. A fellow gang member, Steven Crossdale, 27, of Herne Hill, south-east London, was jailed for eight years. Metropolitan Police informer

Eaton Green, 28, received a sixyear sentence after the court was told how the three men robbed guests at the party in Nottingham in May 1993.

phones were stolen from 100 people, who were lined up and threatened with guns. Green shot one of them in the foot to allay suspicions that he was an informer

The court was told that Thomas had entered Britain in March 1993 under a false name and with a false passport. He had several convictions for violence in Jamaica and had been released from jail in 1992 after serving 12 years for shooting at

Mr Justice Smedley told them: "The events of that night were extremely serious. It was ottingham in May 1993. a terrifying event and people Cash, jewellery and mobile were frightened for their lives."





news

Casino chief in test case over gaming licence

DAVID SPANIER

An unusual gamble opens in the High Court today, when Max Kingsley, former managing director of the most successful casino group in Britain, London Clubs International, tries to regain his personal gaming licence.

For the past three years, Mr Kingsley has been out of the game, so far as casino gambling in London is concerned.

Now he has secured a judicial review which will determine whether the decision by the Gaming Board of Great Britain to revoke his coveted "grey" gaming licence should he

The hearing, before Mr Justice Jowitt, has far-reaching implications for the regulation of casino gamhling in Britain, which is already undergoing rapid change under the Government's policy of dereg-

The Gaming Board revoked Mr Kingsley's licence last year, in the aftermath of its previous action against London Clubs, which began with a dawn raid by police on the Ritz Club in Piccadilly and Les Amhassadeurs in Park lane, in June

Although the Gaming Board

erence to Japanese exchange controls) and, more significantly for casino operations, the question of funding overseas gamblers' air fares and hotel expenses.

This led to the company being declared "not fit and prop-er" to hold casino licences, thereby threatening its closure.

The judicial review, howev-

er, is not about the verdict of the Gaming Board, which was never tested in court. In the event, London Clubs' casinos were saved by the resignation of Mr Kingsley and his senior colleagues, together with a fundamental restructuring of the company.All the senior management at London Clubs at that time would now need to reapply for gaming licences.

The latest hearing is concerned with whether the Gaming Board exceeded its authority or abused its powers, in revoking Mr Kingsley's per-sonal gaming licence in the manner it did.

Mr Kingsley maintains that when he reapplied, the Gaming Board pre-judged his case by finding against him before he was given a hearing, and that it showed clear hias against him complaints were not published, in failing to take proper note of

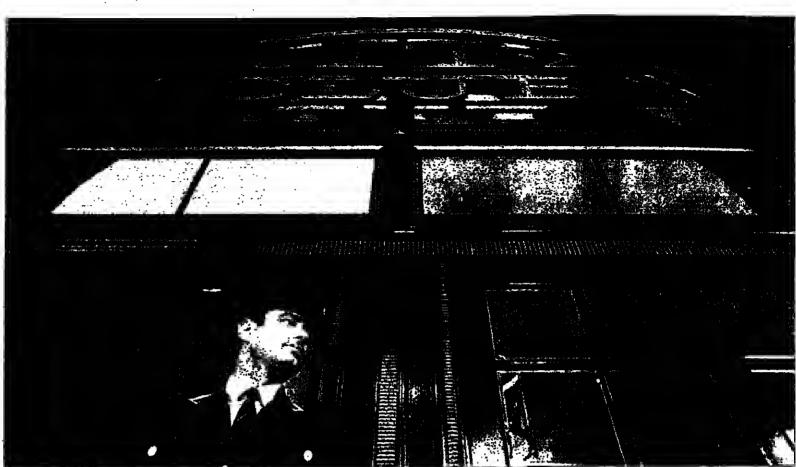
they covered issues such as the the full evidence in his case. He granting of credit, the clearing of cheques (with particular reffor alleged professional misfor alleged professional misconduct has deprived him of a life-long career in casino man-

> If he wins, therefore, he might be in a position to sue the Gaming Board, which would set a new precedent in gaming law, though legal experts say that the issue of damages in judicial re-

view cases is very uncertain.
Mr Kingsley, who has never
concealed his belief that he was unfairly treated, is a man with the means and the energy to fight a long campaign to clear

On the other hand, if the judicial review finds merely that certain aspects of the evidence were not considered properly, or supports certain technical obiections, it would be open to the Gaming Board to re-consider the case in that light. When the Board did this on a previous occasion, it did not change its decision.

Coincidentally, London Clubs International, under its new management, took a further step to expand its gaming operations in London this week. It has acquired the Park Tower casino in Knightsbridge for £16m, bringing its total number of working casinos in the capi-



Club class: The Ritz Club in Piccadilly which was owned by London Clubs International when Mr Kingsley was managing director Photograph: Ed Webt

Blueprint for saving water

NICHOLAS SCHOON. **Environment Correspondent**

Changing the design of washing machines and reducing leakage from mains and household pipes are the most cost effective ways of saving water, the Government's water resources and pollution watchdog said yesterday.

The report, comes at a time when about 17 million people in England and Northern Ireland are still under hosepipe bans or tougher water restrictions in the wake of the drought.

The National Rivers Authority said water use could be cut, economically, by up to one-quarter. Its report, Saving Water, said changing older lavatory cisterns and extending water metering selectively were also needed to achieve the rewould drastically reduce the frequency of water shortages

and the need for new reservoirs and boreholes.

The report advocates that the Government should set a maximum limit for all new washing machines of 80 litres per wash, and that all pre-1981 cisterns in households should be replaced with dual-flush versions.

These allow the option of using just five litres - half the amount of water in a conventional cistern - to flush away urine. The authority says such arrangements should be mandatory for all new homes, and that water companies could give grants to householders for the cost of replacing cisterns which

it puts at £30 per lavatory. The report also suggests that all water companies should reduce their leakage rates to six ual spread of metering "with aplitres per household per hour - propriate safeguards for lowequivalent to about 18 per cent duction. Taken together, this of total water pumped into the

mains being lost.

panies of England and Wales pipes are being refurbished, to that, with North West, Welsh and Yorkshire the worst offenders. The Government and the industry's economic watchdog, Ofwat, are opposed to compulsory leakage targets for the companies but the NRA has

now made a clear call for them. The authority says these three moves - on washing machines, leakage and lavatories - would together save 3.6 billion litres a day in England and Wales, 20 per cent of current consumption.

The report says installing water meters in every home would not be a cost effective way of curbing use, but it does come out firmly in favour of a gradincome families."

have leakage rates well above make the installation of meters an attractive option to customers and to concentrate on areas where water was most likely to he in short supply.

This summer's water shortages were caused in part by high use of garden sprinklers and hoses. The NRA said that if these households had had meters the problems would have been less severe, "That is something that should be taken very seriously by the water compa-nies," said the NRA's water demand chief Peter Herbertson.

Earlier this week, North West Water was granted powers to ban non-essential use of water such as car washing and watering of sports grounds. In mid-Ulster, several hundred homes have been experiencing rota cuts for the past three months. The priorities should be to in-stall meters in all new homes overnight for eight hours in Most of the big 10 water com- and where mains and service every 24 to conserve supplies.





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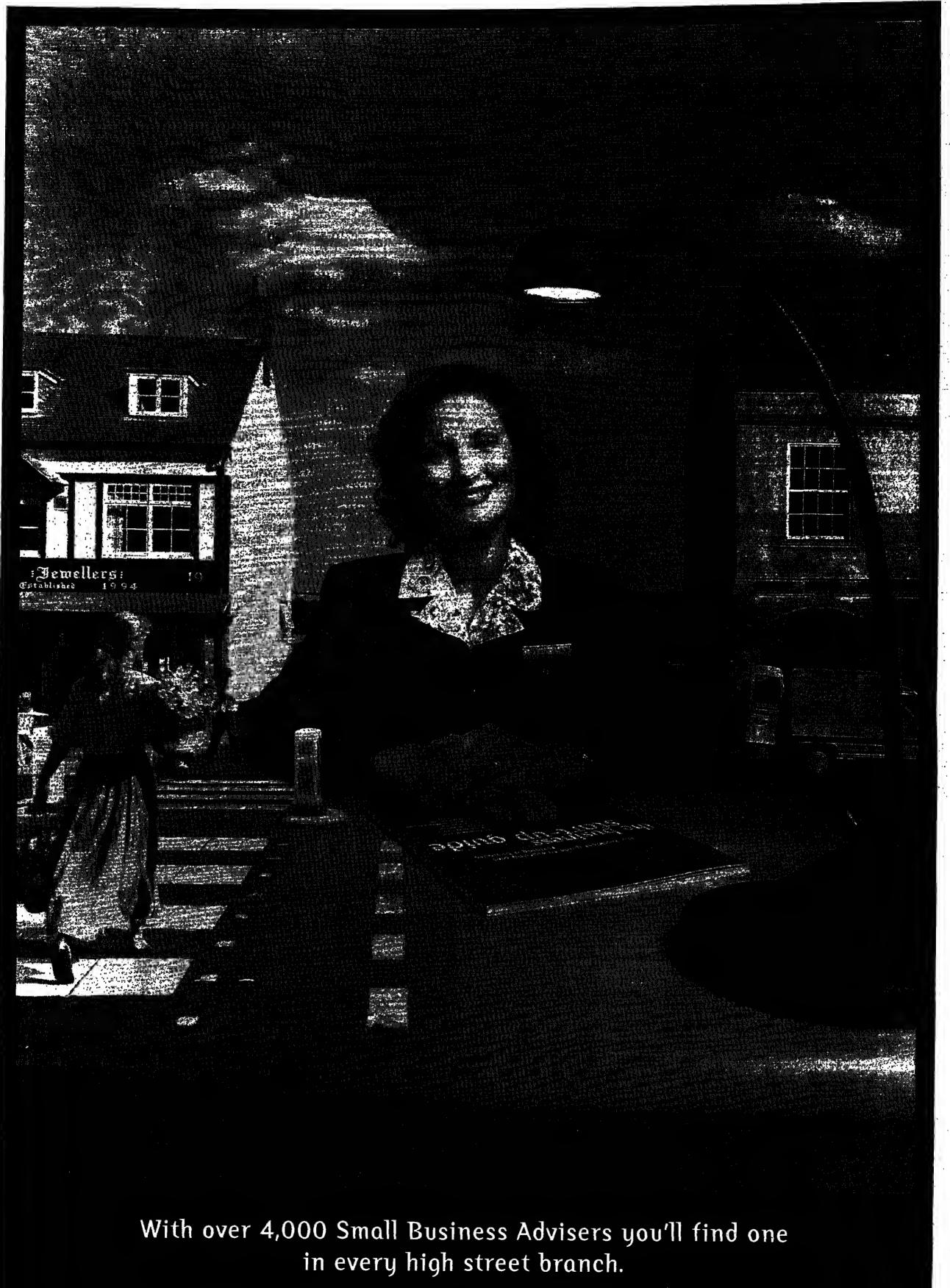


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Multiple sclerosis: A new treatment may help sufferers of crippling illness, but some doubt that it will be freely available



MS sufferers offered 'breakthrough' drug

Health Editor

Every patient suffering from multiple scierosis whn would benefit from a costly new drug will receive it, the Department nf Health promised yesterday, as ministers sought to avert annther healthcare-ratinning

The drug, beta-interferon, has been described by American doctors as the "biggest breakthrough in MS for 20 years", and more than 40,000 patients in the US have used the drug since its approval there in 1993. It will be licensed far use here next month and will cost between £7,000-£10,000 a year for every patient treated.

About 10,000 nf the 80,000 MS sufferers in the UK, who have the relapsing, or remitting,

form of MS, will be potential candidates for the drug. US clincal trials have shown that betainterferon can cut the frequency of relapses by up to a third, although it does not cure or halt the disease, which is a degenerative disorder of the central nervous system, and affects

mainly young adults.
The NHS executive is now drawing up guidelines on prescribing the drug, to be known as Betaferon, in consultatinn with the Multiple Sclerosis So-ciety and the British Association of Neurologists. "If there's a patient who can clearly benefit from the treatment, clearly they should have [it], and it should be funded," the Department said yesterday.

However, as with many ground-breaking new drugs, the Department is strongly recommending that it is prescribed beta-interferon in trial use here. solely through hospitals. GPs will be asked to refer patients who want beta-interferon to a consultant for a full neurological assessment tn "make sure clinically that it's going to the right people". There is also some concern about its lnngterm side-effects. other services."

Ultimately, the decision to provide beta-interferon will rest with the local purchasing au-thority or GP fundhalders, and many patients fear this means some will get it, while others will not, depending where they live. Some MS sufferers in the UK have already been refused the drug after a consultant has

agreed to prescribe it. Unlicensed drugs can be prescribed for small numbers of patients under a special scheme, and there are different types of

In a recent letter in one MS patient who could not get the drug, John Bowis, junior health minister, acknowledged the problem: "New drugs can be expensive and this includes betainterferon products; mnney spent on them will mean less for

Peter Cardy, chief executive nf the MS Society, said he was urging the Department to issue "strenuous guidance" that access in the drug should be equitable. He warned that the higgest barrier to patients would be waiting lists of several months to see a neurologist.

A free leaflet on beta-interferon is available from the MS Society, 25 Effie Road, Fulham, London SWo 1EE. Helpline: 0171-371 8000.

News Analysis, page 19

Beta patient wins right to a brighter future

LIZ HUNT

"What this drug has bought us is time, time for my family and time for science to come up with the cure for this cruel disease." Jean Skasick, 48, has multiple sclerosis but considers herself one of the luckier ooes because she has been receiving weekly injections of beta-interferoo

The battle to get the drug has dominated the lives of Jean and her husband Jim for more than a year. They launched an appeal to raise funds to pay for it, and, from their home in south-west London, they bombarded everyone they thought could help, from Virginia Bottomley, then Secretary of State for Health, to officials at their loto know why Jean could not have a drug which might slow the progress of the increasing disability which is characteris-

She talked nf being repeat-edly "stone-walled and fobbed off, of ignored letters and phone calls that were never returned, of doctors who said they would prescribe it and then changed their minds. "It was all about money," Mrs Skasick said. "They just didn't want to pay for something that might help me, and yet it was going to cost less thao £10,000 a year."

Jean Skasick was under no illusinns about beta-interferon. She knew that it would not cure

her MS and she knew that British neurologists were more cautious than their American colleagues who had hailed the drug as a "breakthrough". But she felt there was no alternative treatment for her.

Mrs Skasick was unable to take steroid drugs, the only routine MS therapy that offers some relief to sufferers, because she suffered from osteoporosis. She knew that at least 20 peo-ple in the UK were already taking beta-interferon, paid for by health authorities or trust hospitals. Another 15 were paying for it themselves. "This was all so unfair," she said. It was only after Mrs Skasick's

story appeared in the Indepen-dent earlier this year that the Merton, Sutton and Wandsworth Health Authority relented, and said that if she found a ocurologist to prescribe the drug, the anthority would fund it. Two months into her treatment Mrs Skasick has found no discernible improvement in her condition.

But she said: "This is a longterm treatment. All I my family and I are hoping is that will slow the disability.

"It has given me the prospect of a future. If other people don't get this drug they are being victimised. For years we've cost the NHS anthing - because there was nothing you could do for MS. It must be our turn now."

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DAILY POEM

To Giovanni da Pistoja, On the **Painting of the Sistine Chapel**

By Michelangelo

TEX.

:415

Like cats from Lombardy and other places Stagnant and stale, I've grown a gottre here; Under my chin my helly will appear, Each the other's rightful stance displaces.

My beard turns heavenward, my mind seems shut Into a casket. With my breast I make A shield. My brush moves quickly, colours break Everywhere, like a street mosaic-cut.

My loins are thrust into my belly and I use my bonom now to bear the weight Of back and side. My feet move dumb and blind. In front my skin is loose and yet behind It stretches taut and smooth, is tight and straight.

I am a Syrian bow strained for the pull -A hard position whence my art may grow. I jule, it seems, that's strong and beautiful Can come from all the pains I undergo. Giovanni, let my dying art defend Your honour, in this place where I am left Helpless, unhappy, even of art bereft.

Michelangeln, the supreme creative genius of the Italian Remaissance, was also a poet. The majority of his sonnets were written in the last 30 years of his life, this one in Rome as he embarked on the most demanding challenge of his career, the painting of the Sistine Chapel. It is a remarkably frank account of the physical agony of the task, and the mexpected vulgarity of goitres, bottoms and bellies (such earthiness was common in the 16th century) has a refreshing charm. It is one of many poems, translated by Elizabeth Jennings, which appears in a new collection from Carcanet, The Sonners of Michelangelo.

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Or for further information, please write to: Corporate Communications, BNFL, Risley, Warrington, Cheshire WA3 6AS.



LAROUR IN BRICHTON

Hattersley the rebel smarts from Blunkett's savaging

JOHN RENTOUL Political Correspondent

Roy Hattersley said he "hated" the "trauma" of his new-found role as conference darling of the rebellious left yesterday, as he smarted from a hrutal putdown from David Blunkett on

He had seemed to revel in the delegates' applause after his first speech from the floor for 20 years and he took the long route back to his seat so that he could savour it. It was only when Mr Blunkett departed from his text to savage him that Mr Hattersley's face started to fall. The former deputy leader

claims that he does not want to be involved in political controversy. "Like the Queen Mother in 1936. I hoped to spend the rest of my life in comfortable obscurity," he said.

He says he was offered a Cabinet post in a Labour government by John Smith, when he told the former leader that he would not be standing for the Commons again at the next election. He says Mr Smith told him: "I hoped you would see us in for a year or two." But Mr Hattersley says be did not like the idea of being an old man" in a Labour cabinet, delaying the advancement of younger talents. Instead, he returned to his



original craft of journalism and started earning a lot of money as a writer. Some of his articles are cultural. Some are autobiographical - the best was the Roy Hattersley Diet (before, 15st 2lbs; after, 15st 2lbs). And later this month he publishes Who Goes Home? the story of his

But some of his articles are political, and in January he

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struck a chord on education, and began an extraordinary transformation into left-wing firebrand and leadership critic This culminated in his ap-

pearance at the Tribune Rally on Tuesday. He was paying back a 21-year-old grudge. He told how Tony Crosland told him off for losing "thousands of votes" by pledging, as education spokesman, to abolish fee-paying

schools. He was still bitter about Harold Wilson's refusal to give him the job in government. But left-wing dissenters, as

Liz Davies has also discovered, have to pay a price - the "new Labour" leadership hits back, and hits back hard. Asked if Mr Blunkett's attack on him hurt, he said: "That's politics." But he was hurt. Will he retreat to lick his wounds, or will he fight on?

Party rejects call to abolish grant-maintained schools

STEPHEN GOODWIN Parliamentary Correspondent

Tony Blair was relieved of the embarrassment of having his choice over the education of his son in direct contradiction with Labour Party policy yesterday, when a move to abolish grantmaintained status and bring all schools under local authority control was defeated by a 3 to

The most heated debate of the conference featured Roy Hattersley in the unusual role of darling of the left wing as he accused the party leadership of propping up a failed Tory scheme, and called for a drive against the country's 150 remaining grammar schools. "Let's stop apologising about comprehensive schools," said the former deputy leader of the party, winning a standing ovation from part of the Brighton

But in a trenchant defence of

on "opt-out" schools, education spokesman David Blunkett said there would be no two-tier system and warned Mr Hattersley of the electoral consequence of splitting the party. "Everyone in this room knows that the team that kicks into its own goal loses the match - and we are not going to lose the match."
The call to abolish GM sta-

tus and hring all schools, in-cluding city technology colleges, back under local authority control was defeated by 76.4 per cent to 23.6 per cent. Union block votes ensured the comfortable majority, with constituency parties voting by only the narrowest of margins against the motion. A show-ofhands vote would have looked far more damaging for Mr Blair but was avoided when Diana Jueda, chairing the session, moved promptly to a card vote.

Under the policy document Diversity and Excellence, ap-

the leadership's compromise proved yesterday, GM schools would be renamed Foundation schools, two councillors would be added to their boards of governors and extra funding would stop. Some 1,070 of the 24,000 secondary schools in England and Wales have opted out of council control, but the Gov-ernment has had difficulty in

persuading more to follow.

The Labour document also restates the party's opposition to the 11-plus examination. "We are determined to renew and commit ourselves to comprehensive education for every child in the country," he said. There would be no hierarchy of schools, and "fair and equitable

funding" for every school.

Mr Blair's decision to send his
son Euan to a GM school, the London Oratory, 8 miles from his Islington home, was attacked by delegates. Maggie Rosher of Coventry, a retired teacher, said she felt "a great sense of hetrayal". Nigel Mason, of could be no compromise over opt-out schools: "We will not accept the concept of Foundation schools. This is the Scilafield factor - if something stinks, change the name."

Lynn Jones of Harborough condemned GM schools as "divisive, selective and de-structive". She added: "We must not be seen as the Tories'

partners in crime." But the weightiest criticism came from Mr Hattersley who said the proposal for Foundation schools offered GM schools a chance to be different - "a chance to pose as superior and therefore the chance, from one source or other, to ohtain extra finance"

GM schools were the great failure of the Tory government - "the thing they couldn't bribe or bully schools to [become]". Mr Hattersley said. "Why we should prop it up seems tu me absolutely extraordinary."

Labour education policy: What they said ..

Gillian Shephard, Secretary of State for Education, in leaked memo last month: "This should be one of our major success stories but it is not. On education, Labour maintains a lead over us of about 30 per cent, compared with 20 per cent a year ago.

There is a perception that schools are underfunded and peace in the classroom is threatened.... Insufficient resources now threaten the provision of education in the state sector, including grant-maintained schools.

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about education in Tuesday's conference ... if we do not change, we will have two

classes of health service, two classes of state schools ... We will put our education system right. No more dogma. No more arguments about structures. For every school, fair and equitable funding. No return to selection, academic or social. But a new deal in our classrooms."



... and what was passed yesterday Diversity and Excellence, Labour's education policy paper

"Schools will be organised in one of three ways.

passed by yesterday's conference:

"Community schools, based on existing county schools, would have a number of important changes to increase the role of parents and the independence of the school.

"Aided [schools], based on existing voluntary-aided schools, would... continue to be able to employ staff, develop an admissions policy in partnership with the LEA, hold the school assets in trust and receive capital grants to cover 85 per cent of their cost. Changes .. would include the development of the role of parents."

*Foundation schools will offer a new bridge between the powers available to secular and church schools. They will offer greater flexibility and devolution within the local management system as part of the local democratic framework. Building on voluntarycontrolled schools, the foundation schools would have an opportunity to develop within the local education system the ethos which many grant-maintained schools feel they have developed."

*Fair selection:

"Our opposition to academic selection has always been clear, But... change [comes] only through local agreement. Such change in the character of the school would only follow a clear demonstration of support from the parents affected by such decisions.

Isolated left goes beyond the fringe

agement, this week's Labour Party conference has been full

of the unexpected. For a start there was the sight n the education debate, of Roy Hattersley casting himself as the darling of the left, and earning a standing ovation – for audacity if nothing else. Then there was the woman outside the centre who positioned herself among the gauntlet of activists pressing leaflets - about live exports, freedom for Kashmir, or the Young Fabians Social - on reluctant delegates. Her purpose was to yell her political demand:

"make ballet underwear compulsory for two hours a day". She was not the only one preoccupied with idiosyncrasies. On the fringe the most unlikely things were being appropriated as party political issues. In a hotel just up the prom from the conference centre yesterday unchtime, for instance, a woman called Christine Burns was launching a new lobbying

organisation.

Ms Burns's point was that though she was a woman, the law did not regard her as one: she had been born a man, and had undergone "gender re-alignment surgery". She called her group Press for Change presumably because someone had already used the name The No Turning Back Group. Her com-plaints about discrimination against trans-sexuals were significant: not allowed to have a changed birth certificate, not allowed to marry, not adequately protected against sexual offences. Worse, certain NHS trusts had decided not to continue sex change operations, as a cost-cutting move. "Which is ridiculous as they represent very good value for money," Ms Burns said. "They only cost between £1,500 and £3,000, depending on the trimmings." Though in the case of this operation, you would have thought the whole point was that trimmings were included. Sitting beside Ms Burns was

Lynne Jones, a distinctly un-Blairite MP, who quickly made party capital out of the issue. The present Government is intransigent on trans-sexual rights



and has refused to recognise it is a government responsibility," Dr Jones said. "As yet there is no Labour policy relating to this issue, but I am hoping to put forward a resolution at next year's conference. With all the other areas of

policy appropriated by the Blairites, the left, it seems, is having to get ever more imaginative in finding causes to call its own. Ms Burns, though, didn't quite see it like that: she confessed to being a member of the Tory Par-ty and was going to hold a sim-ilar meeting next week in Blackpool. At which point a member of the press, barely able to stifle a snigger, asked which Tory MP she had persuaded to chair the meeting. "Sadly, I haven't found one," was the disappointing answer. This ex-change led a delegate to suggest that the biggest problem transsexuals face is the media: they just don't realise what harm they cause by taking the piss. So out goes the joke about male prospective Labour MPs taking an interest in this group's activities as their only way of getting on to all-women shortlists. Another tiny, beleaguered

minority group was out lobby-ing the fringe the previous evening the privatised utility fat cats. At a cocktail party thrown by the modernising magazine Renewal could be found a director of North West Water. The evening began with a plea by the editor for funds, a plea which Tony Blair, making a fleeting visit, found hard to understand. "Looking round this room," the Labour leader said, casting his eye over the select gathering. "I can see plenty of money to help you." He didn't name names, but North West Water subsidising a Labour publication: now that would be

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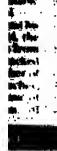
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Young to push ahead with rapid rail sell-off

COLIN BROWN and BARRIE CLEMENT

The privatisation of Railtrack is to be pushed forward by Sir George Young, the Secretary of State for Transport, in spite of rising opposition to the break-up of British Rail.

Signalling the go-ahead at the Conservative Party conference next week, Sir George will in effect challenge Labour to find the money to buy it back. "We are talking about large chunks of money," a Whitehall source

Labour hopes its threats to take back Railtrack into public ownership will stop its privatisation. The value of Railtrack, which owns the track system, has fallen from an estimated £4bn, when privatisation was first proposed, to about £1.5bn.

The Government is committed to privatising the rail network before the next general election and Sir George will make it clear it will not be postponed any longer.

The shadow transport secretary, Michael Meacher, yesterday warned prospective private investors: "If you want to buy a pig in a poke in all those circumstances it's up to you. But don't come crying to me when it all ends in tears."

Opening a debate on transport at the party conference, Mr Meacher said: "We are going to stop this privatisation in its tracks," He also threatened to cut the £1.8bn public subsidy for private companies, although that could put services at risk. The Government's determi-

nation to press ahead with rail privatisation in spite of widespread opposition continued with an employee buy-out yes-terday for £11.5m of the BR sandwich business. The move to accelerate privatisation will intensify the pres-

sure on Tony Blair from trade

unions to spell out his pledge to

owned and publicly accountable" railway system under a

The Labour leader's com-

mitment caused confusion at the

conference yesterday over how far Mr Blair's pledge committed

Labour to renationalising the rail system. It was thought Mr Blair

Labour government.

was proposing to make the 25 operating companies publicly accountable and to limit the promise of public ownership to Railtrack. A Labour government could allow private franchised services to run for the life of their contracts, up to seven years, on publicly owned track. But Mr Meacher went further yesterday, refusing to rule out the possibility that the 25 op-

erating companies responsible for running services could be brought back under public ownership. Mr Meacher said the options included a buy-back of shares; the issue of Rail Bonds; or the use of a "golden share" giving the Government a controlling interest.

The RMT transport union, Aslef, the train drivers' union and TSSA, the white collar association, are lobbying Mr Meacher before the completion of his rail privatisation policy document in November to make the commitment to public ownership more explicit for Railtrack and

the operating companies.
The left-led RMT, the biggest rail union, believes that the whole of the industry should be renationalised with immediate effect. Aslef is arguing that Railtrack and the passenger and freight train operators should be taken back under public control and the Government should take a controlling interest in the companies which

lease rolling stock.

Drivers' leaders accept the train operators may have to remain in the private sector until the end of their contracts, but argue they should come under the control of a single national authority.

the Labour Party conference Business fears, page 24 that there would be a "publicly Beckett's NHS pledges cheered

Political Correspondent Private-sector companies will take no part in running National Health Service hospitals under a Labour government, dele-

gates pledged yesterday. But there was an impass appeal for a fair-pay deal for "ground down" NHS workers from Rodney Bickerstaffe, associate general secretary of Unison, the health service union.

"Tony, I heard you loud and clear yesterday when you said that a Labour government, like all governments, will have to say no as well as yes on public-sec-tor pay." Mr Bickerstaffe said

during yesterday's health debate.
"But the NHS staff are the most shining and polished face of the jewel in the crown [of the welfare state]. We cannot keep grinding them down, exploiting them. When you come into your kingdom - and health staff want you there - remember

them and say yes." The plea came as Margaret Beckett, health spokeswoman. received the fifth standing ovation of the conference after pledging that Labour would stop the "privatisation" of the health service that had been put

in train by the Tories. There were cheers when Mrs Beckett promised that Labour framework for commissioning.

would remove gagging clauses from NHS staff contracts, end mixed-sex wards, fight to restore NHS dentistry, strengthen the rights of carers, ban tobacco advertising, halt market testing of

48 clinical services. Citing last month's issue of the Lancet medical journal, nance mitiative as the back door to privatisation, Mrs Beckett said: "The cat's out of the bag. The Tories are privatising

the health service.
"Privatisation is not just about privatising services but also about driving more and more people into the private

sector of health care," she said. "We are now being asked to accept a safety-net public services for emergencies and for the poor and expensive private health insurance for the great majority ... I'm telling you Labour won't accept this future. I won't accept this future - not

while I live and breathe." The conference motion passed by delegates commits the party to abolishing compulsory competitive tendering ensuring that private companies take no part in running hospitals, and agreeing national pay arrange-ments. The NHS internal market and GP fundholding would be replaced by a co-operative

Quotes of the day "Whilst I fully understand there is much interest in the [OJ Simpson] verdict, I would implore you not to lose sight of both the news value and of the importance to the country of Mr Blair's speech." - Alastair Campbell, Tony Blair's press secretary,

in a fax to the BBC on Tuesday afternoon. "Those who didn't come up with solutions shouldn't turn on those who have." - David Blunkett, education spokesman, to Roy



OUR IN BRIGHTON



Solitary splendour: Delegate Sadie Cunningham, of Kingston upon Hull East, sitting among a sea of chairs at lunchtime Photograph: John Voos

Blair in plea to lawyers

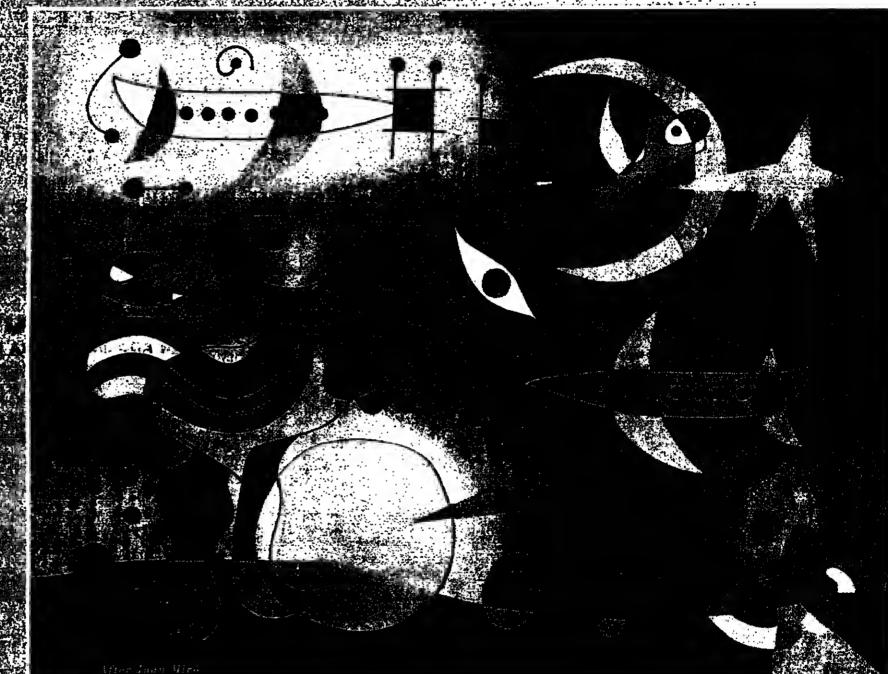
awyers are to be asked by Tony Blair to work for free to help people take their cases to court without the fear of hefty legal bills, writes Colin Brown.

The Labour leader's voluntary plan is aimed at people who are not poor enough to qualify for legal aid, but cannot afford proper advice. He made it clear that Labour was committed to supporting a publicly funded legal aid system, but said this was a way of supplementing it.

Mr Blair said he had asked Paul Boateng, Labour's legal affairs spokesman to open dis-cussions with the Bar Council and the Law Society. Under the scheme, lawyers or their companies might volunteer to spend a number of days a year working in law centres or Citizens' Advice Bureaux. Some might contribute a cash equivalent or

sponsor a full-time worker. Mr Boateng will today outline Labour's plans for extending ac-cess to justice – including a community legal service and the reform of the legal profession.

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Bosnia conflict: US envoy talks of serious proposal for a ceasefire as his peace mission starts to regain momentum

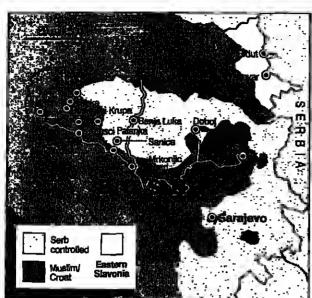
Nato air raids ruffle ceasefire optimism

EMMA DALY and Agencies

an early ceasefire yesterday, despite a brief resumption of Nato air-strikes and further gains by Serb forces counterattacking in oorth-west Bosnia. After meeting officials in Sara-jevo, Richard Holbrooke, the US peace envoy, said the Bosnian government had made a "scrious proposal" for a ceasefire.

Jadranko Prlic, a Croat who is vice-premier of the Bosnian government, told the Sarajevo daily newspaper Oslobodjenje that a resolution of the war may be oear. "I am not heing an optimist," he said. "I am just really assessing the situation.In the next few weeks, we will have a definitive solutioo." Aleksa Buha, foreign minister in the self-declared Bosnian Serb state, said a cease-fire "could be signed oo 20 October in Washingtoo"

The optimism was ruffled by the first Nato air raids for two weeks when warplanes fired missiles at three Bosnian Serb radar sites. Nato said Serb antiaircraft radar locked ooto the planes and they fired in selfdefeoce. A spokesman said the planes fired two missiles at



sites in southern and central Bosnia, and that a third was fired at a site in ceotral Bosnia. Despite these attacks, it

appeared that the US peace nission, which had been runniog into the usual Balkan quicksands, might be regaining momentum. Mr Holbrooke has gained general agreements on a territorial division of Bosnia between multi-ethnic and Serb statelets and power-sharing in

Exhausted and disgruntled, the Bosnian Army Fifth Corps is falling back slowly before a rebel Serb counter-attack along a front line stretching more than 100 miles from Otoka, 5 miles north of Bosanska Krupa to the main road leading to the Serb-held town of Mrkonjic Grad. "The situation is oot that

Muslims and Croats last month

good at the moment - I've been oo the line for 23 days without a break and now I only have 24 hours off," said a Fifth Corps soldier in Bosanska Krupa. A punk with a studded dog-collar and a bandolier, he was silenced by a disapproving military policeman who announced that morale was good. The Serbs had taken some ground to the oorth and east but "it's a tactic", he explained. There are similar tales from

soldiers in and around the town of Kljuc, the base for troops adfire could pave the way for a fullvancing north to Sanski Most scale peace conference to establish the final details. The and east to Mrkonjic Grad. "They brought us from Sarajeenvoy is due to meet the Serh wo to work as police in Kljuc then they sent us to the front President, Slobodan Milosevic, line to fight like ordinary sol-diers," said one young man, limping from a wound he said The Bosnian government's was caused by fragments from a missile fired from a Serb airgaining some of the territory in oorthern Bosnia rolled over by

After the stunning success of



Going underground: Sarajevo residents queue for water in a city centre tunnel

kilometres of land oorth of the September offensive by the

Fifth Corps attacking out of Bihac - where they had been uoder severe siege for more than three years - in concert with Croatian troops, the momentum has died. A few days ago the Tigers, an élite unit of the Fifth Corps, had to make a stand to allow their comrades to escape during an attack that went horribly wrong. The line broke and even the Fifth Corps com-and the Serbs retook several mander, General Atif

AIDA CERKEZ

Associated Press

Tuzia - The Serbs had promised

the prisocers would be ex-

captives, Hurem Soljic en-

countered a green hillside cov-

and then by the headlights of

two excavators, as many as

3,000 Muslim men captured

when Serbs overran the east

Bosnian enclave of Srebrenica

were mowed down. Those who

graves around Nova Kasaba,

west of Srebrenica. Madeleine

Albright, US ambassador to the United Nations, told the So-

curity Council as many as 2,700

Journalists have reported ev-

people might be huried there.

idence of human remains: Serbs

suggest they are those of of 3,000 Bosnian government sol-diers killed defending Sre-

brenica. But the story told by the

survivors, interviewed sepa-

rately, points to a different ex-

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What's On

at the scene.

Bosnian officers say their casualties pale in comparisoo to those suffered by the Serbs, but the surgical and intensive care wards at Bihac hospital are filled with young men. Death ootices are to be seen everywhere - in the past week two senior officers have been killed - Dudakovic, has been wounded. But despite the problems with holding the line, few people fear that a resurgent Serb army will retake the oewly captured territories. "The Fifth Corps is the heavenly force, and the Serbs have oo chaoce of taking Bosanska Krupa oow," said Vera Sulianovic, who recently moved back to the ruins of her

Serbs and resettled in Kljue 10 days ago - against their will - are terrified, however, by the prospect of an enemy attack. looking up oervously at the sound of planes overhead and the crump of explosions.

We are afraid of the Serbs perhaps they will occupy Kljuc again and kill us all if they find us here," one woman said. "The

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in Belgrade today.

willingness to consider a cease-

fire may be linked to the success

of the Bosnian Serbs in re-

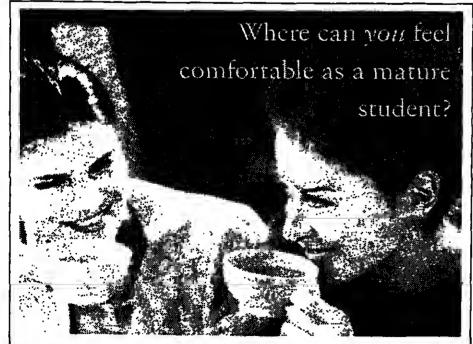








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Gligorov bomb has **Balkans** on guard

MICHAEL SHERIDAN Diplomatic Editor

The car bomb that oearly killed Presideot Kiro Gligorov of Macedonia on Tuesday has sent tremors through the southern Balkans and created the most dangerous instability in the region since the breakup of Yugoslavia four years ago.

Supported by a small but symbolic UN peacekeeping force and backed by clever American diplomacy, President Gligorov had kept a balance between rival ethnic groups among his two million people and avoided potential conflicts with Albania, Serbia, Bulgaria and Greece. His disappearance from the scene - at 78, he is unlikely to recover quickly from severe head injuries - could end all that.

The greatest danger is that blame for the bombing could fall oo a minority group, such as the Albanians, detonating a civil war that would draw in outside interference. Macedonia has an extreme nationalist movement capable of political violence. But Western governmeots have learnt that the bomh was a highly sophisticated device, believed to be beyond

the capacity of local groups. There is another possibility. The country has become a centre for the Balkan heroin trade and official corruption has been fuelled by Mafia drug money. The Italian Mafia is the only group in south-east Europe to use car bombs to assassinate its foes in recent years. And the Macedonian government was under discreet Western pressure

to crack down oo drugs. But it is almost irrelevant whether President Gligorov was attacked by the Mafia or by any of the oumerous extremist elements in his landlocked and impoverished country. The fact is that the bombing was a perfectly calculated act of terror-ism which achieved its objective: maximum destabilisation.

The instantaneous reaction by Greece - bitterly at odds with Macedonia since its indepen-dence—was proof of the fear it unleashed. Wheo the bomh weot off, Greece and Macedonia were just beginning official talks to resolve their dispute over the former Yugoslav Re-public's name and constitution. By ten minutes past six that evening, Athens had sent surgeons with specialist equip-ment from Thessaloniki to Skopje to join the doctors trying to save Mr Gligorov's life.

Prime Minister Andreas Papandreaou and the opposition all condemned the bombing and Athens put its forces on alert along the northern border. The Macedonians sealed off theirs and Bulgaria tightened security along its frootier with Macedonia,

This attack of the jitters should put every government involved with the former Yugoslavia on its guard. The sensible behaviour of Athens will attract firm European support and its oegotiations with Macedonia will go ahead.

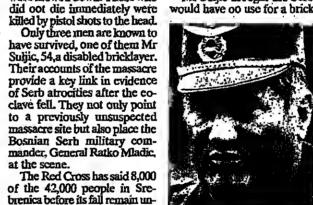
Only three escaped as 3,000

Survivors tell of massacre

following fall of Srebrenica

changed. But as he clambered off a truck with other Muslim to present to the international war crimes tribunal in The Hague, which has already inered with bodies. In the oext dicted Gen Mladic as a sushours, first under the July sun pected war criminal.

As Srebrenica fell, its people could hope UN soldiers could protect them, or try to escape west through Serb-held forests



Mladic: Implicated for the

layer with a bad leg, and joined thousands of others - mostly women and children - seeking refuge at the main UN base. But Serbs occupied it and while Dutch peace-keepers watched helplessly, separated several bundred men, including Mr Suljic, and shut them in a warehouse. He said some 100 were taken away the first day.

The next day Gen Mladic vis-Bosnian government investi- changed for Serbs. But instead

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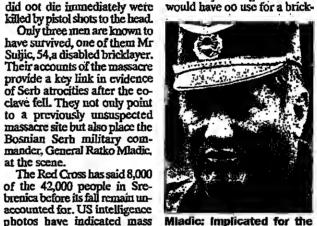
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were systematically mowed down

gators gathering information of heading to the front line, they

to government territory. Mr Suljic thought the Serbs



first time

were taken to a sweltering sports hall in Krizevci, 22 miles north of Srehrenica. Through the night, bus after

bus arrived. On ooc was Mevludin Oric, 25, a soldier captured as he fled through the woods. Mr Oric said his captors were driving UN vehicles. Mr Suljic said he counted four to five meo to a square yard, a to-tal of 2,400 to 3,000. Gen Mladic appeared again on 14 July, three days after the fall of Srebrenica. We started yelling at him. Why are you suffocating us here? Better kill us all'." Finally, the prisooer exchange was said to be ready. Groups were takeo and placed in two trucks, 10 to 15 men in each.

"We weot a bit up the hill, slowly," Mr Suljic said. "The sound of some machines was becoming louder and louder ... The truck turned left and stopped in the grass. We saw a field covered with bodies. They ordered us to come out and line up with our backs to the soldiers, and our faces to the field of bodies."

There were two firing-squads of five soldiers each. Mr Suljic was in the first row, with two rows of prisoners between him and the Serb guns. "I could hear automatic gunfire. They fell on me, and I fell oo my stomach. But I wasn't hit," he said. Mr Oric was with a cousin.

who grabbed his hand as they got into a truck shortly after Mr Suljic. When they saw the planation. They have spoken to ited and said they would be ex-killing-field, "my cousin Bosnian government investi-changed for Serbs. But instead grabbed my hand again and

said, 'Mevlo, they're going to kill us', 'Mr Oric said. As the shooting began he dived to the ground, "I didn't move, I stayed

lying there for nine hours." In intervals between the shooting a Serb walked among the bodies and finished off those still moving with a pistol shot to the head, both sur-vivors said. At ooc point, Mr Suljic said, Gen Miadic appeared oear by. "He took a look and left quickly." Group by group, trucks brought prisoners. who were shot in turn. Wheo it became dark, the soldiers used headlights of the two diggers. Finally the shooting stopped.

and Mr Oric heard a voice saying the dead would oot be buried that night. But guards refused to stay the night, and all the Serbs eventually left.

Mr Suljic stood and looked around. Moonlight illuminated "a sea of bodies". He tried to shout "Is there anybody alive? If there is someooe, get up, and let's go." It came out as a whis-per. But it was loud eoough for per. But it was loud eoough for Mr Oric, lying 20 yards away. As he stood, he said, "The only thing I saw was dead people all over the place ... I got very scared and started crying. I couldn't stop. This man came to me, it was Hurem, and he asked if f was wounded."

Stepping over bodies, the two headed into the forest. In the morning, they reached a hurned-out village. Stopping to pick apples, they saw a man ahead. It was Small Hodzic, the third known survivor. They climbed a hill, oriented themselves, and began walking towards government positions. Three days later, they crossed a minefield at the front line and

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On parade with wannabe warriors

Two hlondes in green camou-flage micro-skirts are standing guard on stiletto heels over a Harley-Davisonmotorbike. Each is holding a black plastic assault rifle. Sitting cross-legged an a chair, observing them with little interest, is a large, beard-ed biker sporting dark glasses, jeans, white shirt, black leather

waistcoat, cowboy boots. His hair is in a long black pony tail. A tubby middle-aged man in yellow shirt and pink shorts approaches the biker. They talk. The biker nods. The man smiles and hands over a \$10 hill. The two blondes escort the

man to the Harley. He sits on it, side-saddle. The blondes close inspection indicates they are mother and daughter pose either side of him. All three smile and stare into a Polaroid camera mounted on a tripod. The biker instructs the man to put his arms around the women's waists and, click, he takes the picture.

The sceoe is the Sands Hotel Expo Centre, Las Vegas. The event is the annual Soldier of Fortune convention. Vendors at a 100 stalls are selling Magnum revolvers, Bushmaster "Bullpup" carbines, US armyissue night-vision goggles, Green Beret training manuals, Vietnam-tested tomahawks, double-bladed combat knives. pepper-spray canisters, Rhodesian passports and South-West Africa Special Forces desert camouflage uniforms, available for \$105 (£70) in medium, large and extra large. Saturday morning shoppers inspect the hardware, feel the clotb, Husbands and wives - middle-aged, mid-dle American - stroll band in hand. They carry their paramilitary purchases in white plastie bags. Maoy of the men are wearing hlack boots and camouflage uniforms. So are some of the womeo. And so is a baby in a pram. One woman has smeared her face with earthcoloured paint. No one gives her, or the haby, a second

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Soldier of Fortune is a magazioe about men and war. It was founded by Colooel Boh Brown, a Vietnam veteran, in 1975. Colonel Brown and his staff eogage in what they call "participatory journalism": They fight and write. This. mooth's 20th anniversary issue



Gun-ho: Macho fantasy is Soldier of Fortune terrain as military enthusiasts exercise with machine guns

correspondents in Rhodesia, where we racked 60 terrorist kills", and El Salvador, where "we took on the Marxist FMLN

Working on the premise that war is fun, SOF dispatches its correspondents to hot-spots in the hope that they will get into trouble. The reports combine hreathless Boy's Own Paper enthusiasm with the pedantic attention to detail of a military intelligence brief. The reader, sitting in his Minneapolis bed-room cradling a Budweiser, is drawn into the drama by the implied ootion that might be called upon to join Colonel Boh's soldier-journalists on some far-flung field of battle. The most reliable indicator of

Soldier of Fortune's target market is provided by those who adfrom the predictable panoply of knives and rifles, advertisers offer "uncensored gore" photographs of "fatal heatings, mutilations and decapitations" "Russian ladies who want to

meet you"; and "male power packs" which "can clevate testosterone by 200 per cent". Macho fantasy being Soldier of Fortune's true terrain, it is not coincidental that Colonel Boh who is in his sixties and partly deaf - should have chosen Las Vegas as the site of his wannabe warriors' annual pow-wow. Las Vegas is so unapologetically over the top that it is impossible for a visitor to feel self-conscious or foolish. More than Los Angeles or New York, Las Ve-

gas is the extreme expression of

the American Dream, a desert

mirage of shimmering 21st-

man can become an instant millionaire and entertain the notion of possessing (for in Neva-da, alone among the 50 states, prostitution is legal) the woman of his wildes! imaginings. Take Jim French, poor Jim French from Scottsdale, Ari-

zona. Jim was wandering up and down the aisles of the Expo Centre oo Saturday in a hlack beret with flowing ribbon, a brown army T-shirt, greeo camouflage trousers and calf-length army boots. He was paunchy and pale and wore glasses. His arms were flabby and thin. Back home they'd laugh to see him dressed this way hut here he was safe, among friends.

Jim is a substitute teacher who works, sometimes; for the Los Angeles County education department. He struggled to raise the \$700 (£450) to pay for compe

his week at the Sands Hotel but tioneers, as they called themit had been worth it. When he selves, were good law-abiding gol back from Vietnam, where folk: Isuzu dealers from Seathe served in Air Force intellitle: police deputies from Or-lando. But you could see how gence 25 years ago, people had viewed him as a leper, he said. "Here we're together. We ena young man, in his eagerness

joy mutual respect."
One thing upset him a little, though. While perhaps half of the 600 or so delegates at the convention had served in Vielnam, some hadn't seen any actioo at all. "There are quite a few phonies around, yeah," he said. "The people who weren't there. Usually they're fairly young. You can spot them. They know loo much. They talk too much."

In so far as there was any tension at this happy tribal occasioo it sprang, as inevitably il would; from the male instinct to brightly illuminated podium, against the backdrop of a massive Stars and Stripes, an old man in regimeotals offered up a prayer to "Our Lord, God of hosts". Some of the diners ranged before him wore fresh new South-West Africa Special Forces battle uniforms. Others wore "I'd rather be killing Com-munists" T-shirts bulging with bellies and guns. The women, cager to please, turned up in long dresses cut to the navel or flak jackets over black leather skirts, "Be pleased, Lord," the soldier-preacher intoned, "to

grant your armies victory over the powers of darkness." Whereupon a retired Salvadorean army colonel with a chest full of medals and a pencil moustache stood up to be-stow "the Combat Star of El Salvador" upon Colonel Bob and 14 of his brave-hearted men for services rendered on behalf freedom and democracy. Colonel Bob, the aging veteran of a thousand wars, stood eye to eye with to Colonel Luis Turcios, once the commander of a battalion famed for its hrutality in an army whose death squads killed 40,000 people.

Colonel Bob saluted and then bowed his bead. Colonel Turcios bent over and placed the rib-boned medal over his neck. From tightened throats, a thousand roars rose.

Outside the hall, taking a smoke-break, sat Patrick Wills, from Bristol, and Ian Smith, from Liverpool. Patrick, who was 32, had spent five years in the French Foreign Legion and three as a mercenary in Croalia, Ian, who served in the British Army for six years, had spent ten months in Croatia with Patrick.

Photograph: René Clement

people sky high.

the building.

to impress, might cross the mark between illusion and re-They were wearing suits and ties. They had come to the ality and hlow a huilding full of convention in the hope of finding work and are disappointed. Especially if he made a habit of participating in rituals like the banquet which closed the con-"We haveo't met one serious persoo here," said Jan, "Ninety-nine per ceot of these blokes ventioo proceedings on Saturhaven't fired a shot in anger in day night. Anywhere else in the Patrick nodded, drew on his

world you would have called it a fancy dress party. Either that cigarette. A 20-stone Greeo or a battalion of police, backed Beret humbered past. What did up by men in white coats, would he make of all this? "Frankly, have been given orders to storm I haven't got the words to describe it. A game? Movies? A thousand diners stood Some American cultural thing? I don't know. But I can't help heads bowed, len lo a lable, in a darkeoed hall the size of St thinking, really, that it's a bit pa-

Slovak police accused of aiding kidnap

Bratislava (Reuter) — A Slovak detective investigating the kid-napping of President Michal Kovac's son said yesterday that he would investigate letters al-legedly written by a firmer secret policeman who elaimed to bave helped the abduction.

"We treat any information on this case very seriously and we will also do so with these letters," said detective Peter Vacok, who is investigating the case which has rocked Slovak politics.

The letters, sent to Mr Vacok and some independent dailies, alleged that the state intelli-gence agency, the Slovak In-formation Service (SIS), had been involved in the kidnapping of Michal Kovae junior near Bratislava on 31 August.

There was no confirmation whether the letters, written by an unnamed person, were genuine or a hoax.

But Mr Vacok said: "It would be oatural that a person, afraid for his life would try to announce some important facts through the media."

Kovac junior was dumped in Austria and he is now out on bail waiting for a Vienna court to decide whether he should be extradited to Germany, where he is wanted oo suspicioo of fraud.

The abduction took place amid a feud between the President and the Prime Minister. Vladimir Meciar.

It has provoked speculatioo of SIS involvement. The SIS is headed by Ivan Lexa, a close Meciar ally and enemy of the President. The government has denied any involvement in the

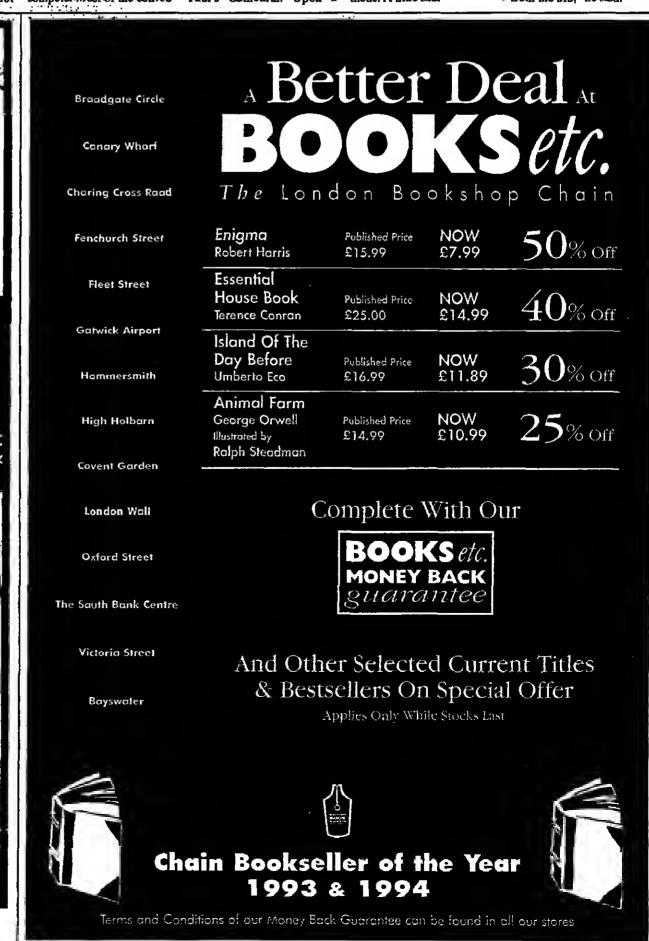
In one of the letters, pub lished by the newspaper SME oo Wednesday, the writer said he had been the member of an SIS group ordered to follow Kovac junior since 28 August, and to help in the kidnapping three days later.

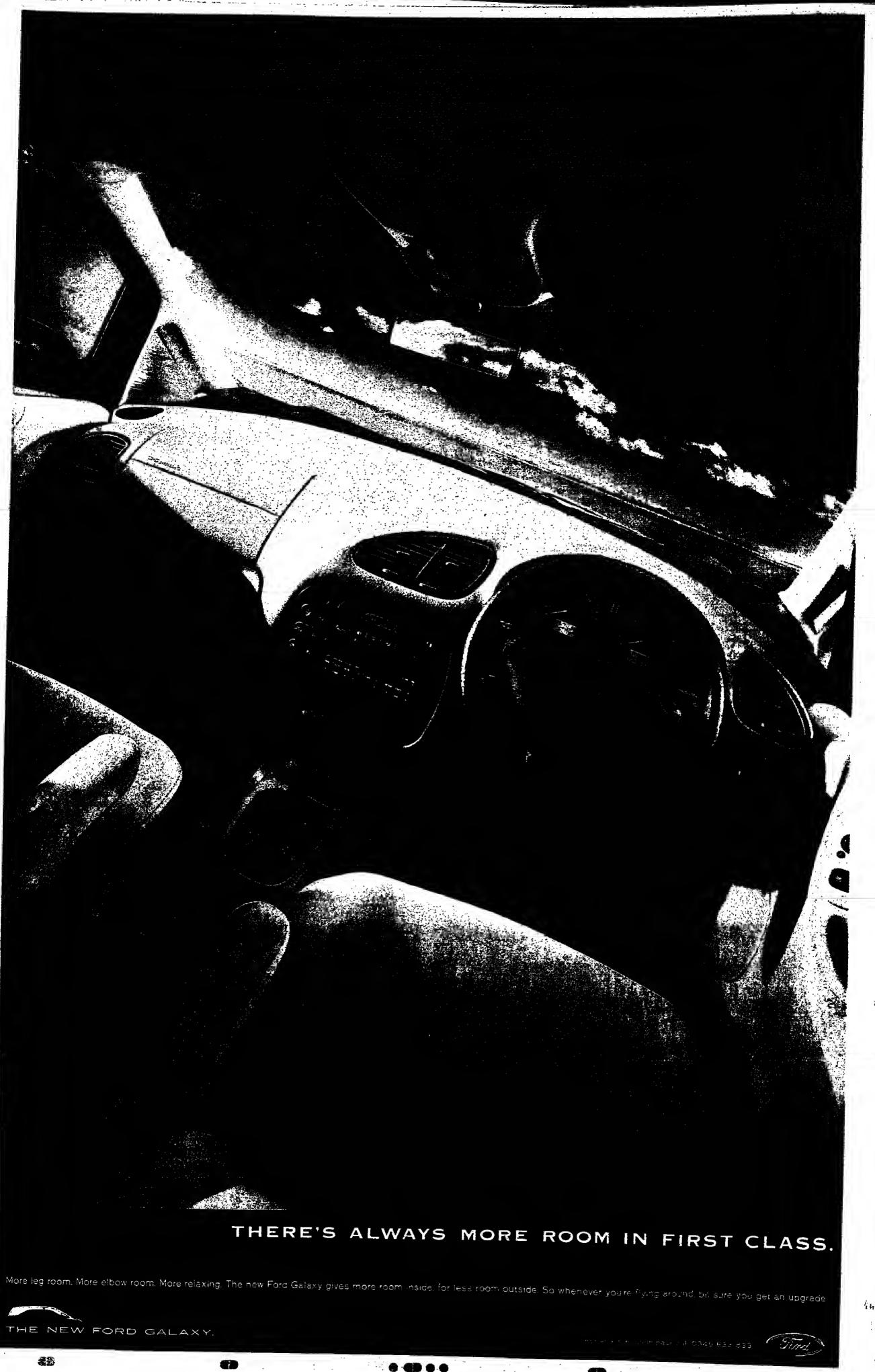
At the moment of the crime their SIS cars had blocked the road to help another group abduct Kovac junior.

"I don't know who the members of that other group were, I don't know eveo if they were



Monday-Thursday 8am - 8pm - Friday 8am - 9pmt - Saturday 8am - 8pmt - Sunday 10am - 4pmtt





This far your att out See, it's got

Secret EU deal over N-test let Paris off hook

SARAH HELM

France carried out its second nuclear test this week after securing agreement from Jacques Santer, the European Commission President, that the Commission would not use European law to stop the tests, according to a secret diplomatic memorandum.

The memorandum, written by senior EU diplomats, and seen by the Independent, describes ao "understanding" reached last month between Jacques Chirac, the French President, and Mr Santer which led the French to believe the test could go ahead without risking action in the European Court.

Nuclear protesters believe that the deal might have been struck because Mr Santer wished to defuse any wider political split within the EU over the nuclear tests. The testing has already soured relations between France and many of its EU partners, adding to divisions over issues of EU reform.

Nicholas Van der Pas, before they go ahead. spokesman for Mr Santer, strongly denied reports of any secret deal, dismissing the sug-gestion as "rubbish". However, fuelling speculation that France was given a green light from Brussels, the European Commission yesterday ooce again

failed to take any action against France, despite the second test carried out on Monday, and de-spite the refusal of France to give Commission experts access

News of the memorandum is certain to cause uproar in the European Parliament. Pauline Green, leader of the Socialist group, said last night that if the deal cited in the memorandum was substantiated it would mean that "a subjugation of the democratic procedures of the

On two occasions Mr Santer has told the European Parlia-ment that the possibility of action against France is being considered.

The Parliament has demanded that the Commission take out an injunction in the European Court to halt all nuclear tests until all possible information on the health and envi-ronmental impact has been examined It argues that under Article 34 of the Euratom Treaty, the Commission has a duty to assess health and safety implications of nuclear tests

However, the memorandum says that any such action has already been ruled ont. According to the document France reported last month that following conversations between Paris and the Commission,

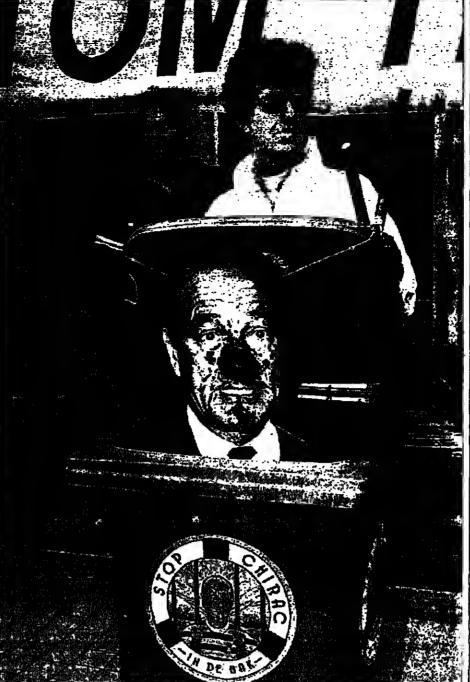
the question of application of Article 34 would "not be pursued"

From the start of the nuclear tests row the Commission has appeared impotent. There is little doubt that it does have the power under the Euratom freaty to prevent such tests taking place if n is not com-pletely satisfied that adequate health and safety measures have been taken.

In order to have this evidence, however, the Commis-sion must be alerted in good time to the fact that the tests are about to take place, and must have access to all the necessary information.

Ritt Bjerregaard, the com-missioner responsible for the environment, has attempted to spur the Commission into action and dispatched a team of ouclear experts to review the safety implications of the tests. However, yesterday officials in Brussels announced that France had refused the Commission team access to a number of key

At a meeting of the Commission yesterday Mrs Bjerregaard called for a decision to begin legal action against France, but her request was rejected. Instead, the Commissioners decided to "insist" once again that France provide the necessary data, deferring further action for another week.



Jacques in the box Protesters from the Dutch Socialist Party and Greenpeace Belgium (behind) demonstrate in Brussels yesterday against French nuclear testing

Poland's reform is safest with me, says Walesa

ADRIAN BRIDGE

President Lech Walesa yesterday sought to bolster his re-election chances by presenting himself as the only person capable of guaranteeing his country's continued commitment to reform.

In a wide-ranging review of his first five-year term, Mr Walesa said he had never wavered from his declared aim of "leading Poland to normality", but suggested that there was still

some way to go.
"What is needed now is not so much a professor's attitude as a practical one." declared the former electrician and leader of is obvious - and for that we need a president whn is revolutionary ... and has the will to fight."
Mr Walesa's will to fight is

legendary. In addition to playing a key role in the fight against Communism, he has also sparred with many of his old Solidarity allies and with nearly all of the six governments with which he has dealt in the past five years.

It is generally acknowledged, moreover, that he faces an uphill battle to remain in the presidential palace after next month. According to opinion polls, support for Mr Walesa is standing at 16 per cent, well behind the 25 per cent registered for the front-runner, Aleksander Kwasniewski, leader of the reformed Communist Democratic Left Alliance (SLD).

Mr Walesa is also faciog

Hanoa Gronkiewicz-Waltz, head of the national Bank of Poland, who is also scoring some 16 per cent, and Jacek Kuron, a former dissideot and labour minister in the first two post-Communist governments.

In total 17 candidates are standing in the first round of the presidential vote on 5 November but only two will go through

to the run-off two weeks later. Mr Walesa is looking surprisingly upbeat. Earlier this year, with opinion poll ratings at just 6 per cent, his political future was being written off. Now he is in with a chance. If he can beat off the challenge from Mrs Gronkiewicz-Waltz the Solidarity trade union. "So- and make it through to the secciety still has to carry out what ond round, he will almost certainly reap the reward of an "anti-Kwasniewski" (or former Communist) vote.

In his campaigning, Mr Walesa is already strongly playing the anti-Communist card. With the current government dominated by the SLD, he is presenting himself as the nnly man who could act as an effective brake

on its powers. He is also seeking to campaign nn his record. In the past five years Poland has certainly made giant leaps towards building a democratic, free-market society and has edged closer to the European Union and Nato. Mr Walesa's critics charge that this has happened despite rather than because of the President. But he is undeterred. He declared yesterday: "I have always removed every obstacle to

Chernomyrdin says he has no designs on the Kremlin



Chernomyrdin: Scepticism

PHIL REEVES

Russia's Prime Minister, Viktor: to present my own candidacy for Chernomyrdin, yesterday de the election of presidency next livered a fresh surprise to year. Mr Chernomyrdin told Moscow's army of Kremlin. Ital last news agency watchers by announcing he had He went out of his way to no plans to run for president in scotch reports that his rela-

table successors to the nothing would

Boris Yeltsin. "I have oot planned, and am oot planning.

the new year's elections. The tions with Mr Yeltsin had if he stands by his word, there sourced and that he may be deswill be disappointment in the tined for the chop. Nothing had West, where he has long been come between himself and the seem as one of the more President, he told Tass - and

Mr Chernomyrdin, 57, has beeo seen as the front-runner for the Kremlin's top job for several years, even though his current chances of success are questionable, given the level of disaffection with the govern-ment among the electorate.

He heads the pro-Yeltsin centre-right electoral bloc Our Home is Russia, which has bet to attract much popular support; even Mr Yeltsin - who instigated the creating of the bloc - had conceded the could for

State Duma (lower house) this

Although he is often widely portrayed as a colourless technocrat - he is a former head of nocrat - he is a former head of the national gas monopoly - Mr Chernomyrings stock improved dramatically in Juoe when he leapt in the international limelight of cooducting tele-vised telephone negotiations with Chechen rebels holding hydrogen and hostage in the dramatic forms.

nomic summit in Canada. The Prime Minister went on to survive a parliamentary vote of no

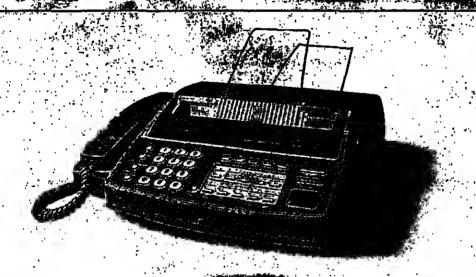
confidence in the government. Yesterday Mr Chernomyrdin's announcement was greeted with scepticism by some Russian political analysts who noted he had not expressly ruled out changing his mind. He has a reputation for being intensely ambitions; if Mr Yellsin decides to drop out of the presidential race, the polit-

ical landscape may seem far more inviting to the Prime Minister and his supporters. On the eve of a key hearing

m the State Duma, the government's draft budget for next year met heavy criticism in both houses of parliament yesterday. The Federatioo Council, the upper chamber, approved a resolution calling for

Russian government, which has resulted in a drop in income for Russians in 1995 and increased social tensioo in several sectors and regions," the resolution read. The plan calls for cutting spending and boosting revenues in an effort to squeeze the

deficit and bring down inflation. cial spending and subsidies for rate of 1.2 per cent oext year, down from 6 to 7 per ceot forecast for 1995



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Comoros coup: Paris backs government of national unity as mystery surrounds fate of white 'colonel' who seized power

Dawn invasion ends short-lived uprising

STEPHEN JESSEL

A six-day coup in the Indian Ocean archipelago of the Co-moros Islands ended yesterday with an invasion by hundred of French troops and contradictory reports about the surrender of the 66-year-old French mercenary who led the coup.

In an operation codenamed several hundred French troops, chiefly drawn from units stationed in Freech territories and hases io the region but also including special units flown in from mainland France, landed at dawn on the main island of the archipelago, seizing two airports and the immediate surrouods of the French embassy.

The troops, which included Foreign Legioo detachments from the French island of Mayotte, were supported by Puma helicopters and French naval units. "Colonel" Bob Denard, the veteran mercenary, freed President Said Mohamed Djo-har, whom he had been holding since launching the coup last



ported to have surrendered. less than 20 hours after the French intervention. But later oegotiating with the French authorities.

Early reports suggested that there had been a number of deaths near the airports but that French troops had suffered no major casualties. France's decision to send troops to the Comoros Islands - reversing Prime Minister Alain Juppé's earlier declaration that there would be oo military intervention - was taken in the light of the damage the coup was doing to the Thursday and was initially re- future of the archipelago.

French foreign office officials said yesterday. The officials also attributed their about-face on intervention to the international outrage at the coup.

The intervention seems to have taken place as soon as was practically possible after the coup. The outcome of the coup the removal from power of President Djohar - does not appear to distress Paris. A statement from the Quai d'Orsay said that the military in-

Comorian Prime Minister Caambi el Yachourtu, who sought asylum in the French embassy after the coup, invoking the defence agreement between the two countries signed in November 1978.

It was Mr el Yachourtu who announced an amnesty for the

400 to 700 Camorians impli cated in the coup - though not for the 30-odd white i naries led by Denard - and the establishment of a broad-based government of national unity to be formed after consultations with all parties including those in opposition.

French officials said the aims

of the intervention had been toremove the mercenaries, described as "criminals", and to restore constitutional order. They tervention followed a request by declined to say whether a restoration of constitutional or-der implied the restoration of President Djohar, who enjoys only limited support among the 450,000, chiefly Muslim, inhabitants of the Comoros preferring to emphasise their support for the new government of national unity.



Defeated: French troops marshal captured rebel soldiers at Moroni airport, Comoros, yesterday

Mercenary kept his French connection

Bob Denard, alias Colonel Bob, is the mercenary's mercenary, involved in more than one murky coup in more than ooe turbuleot country, writes Stephen Jessel

Alias Gilbert Bourgeaud, alias Said Mustapha Mahdjou, be was born on 7 April 1929, in Bordeaux. His connection with the Comoro Islands goes back at 20 years, when he helped Ali Soilih to power. He fell out with the new president, turning his attentioo to the west African state of Benin and an abortive coup there, before returning to the Comoros where he enginecred the overthrow of his former protégé and installed Ahmed Abdallah as a puppet



Bob Denard: Murky coups

Denard, who has Comorian citizenship, was technically commander of the Presidential Guard but to all intents and purposes was regent of the country until Ahmed Abdallah died in obscure circumstances in 1989. Denard was widely reported to have been implicated in Abdallah's death.

He was then evicted by French troops and went to South Africa before returning to France in 1993 where he was convicted in April of that year for his role in the Benin coup and given a five-year suspended sentence. But at his trial a series of more or less shadowy figures from the intelligence services made it plain that Denard's buccaneering mercenary career had, on some occasions, the blessing of the French state.

It was suggested that the relatively light sentence might have heen a trade-off for Denard's silence on certain himself said oothing.

He founded a security firm and seemed to be doing well, trading oo his African contacts. He is still under investigation for his role in the death of Abdallah in 1989.

INBRIEF

British 'betrayal' of Hong Kong

Hong Kong — Martin Lee, Hong Kong's leading democrat, accused Britain of sacrificing the colooy's interests for the sake of smooth trading ties with China, saying the Government had failed to confront Peking's threat to dismantle Hong Kong's legislature. But most Hong Kong oewspapers welcomed agreements reached in London during the visit of China's Foreign Minister, Qian Qichen, to smooth the handover to China in 1997. AP

Islamic outrage burns in Lyons

Lyons - Youths angered by the police killing of the Islamic radical Khaled Kelkal, a terrorist suspect, set fire to rubbish bins and 20 vehicles in unrest in Lyons' poor, heavily immigrant suburbs which has cootinued since last Friday.

Algerian customs officers murdered

Paris - Suspected Muslim guerrillas overcame three customs officers manning a roadblock in western Algeria, slit their throats and seized their weapons before escaping.



Hardliners mourn Moscow - Alexander Rutskoi

(left), a ringleader of the 1993 parliamentary revolt, and Gennady Zyuganov, head of the revived Communist Party, led a crowd of 2,000 hardliners mourning the 123 people who died in the violence. Deputies observed a minute's silence at the start of a new session of AP, Reuter

'Alternative Nobel' for Timor campaigner

Stockholm - Carmel Budjiardo, a British-based campaigner against Indonesian repression of East Timor, was among four winners of the \$250,000 Right Livelihood Award, Sweden's "alternative Nobel". The award recognises people or causes overlooked by the prestigious but sometimes contentious Nobel prizes. AP

Catalans issue election ultimatum

Madrid - Jordi Pujol, leader of Spain's Catalan nationalists, who hold the balance of power in parliament, said he would back a motion of censure if elections are not held by 24 March. His party withdrew support from the Socialists last mooth, leaving Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez in a minority.

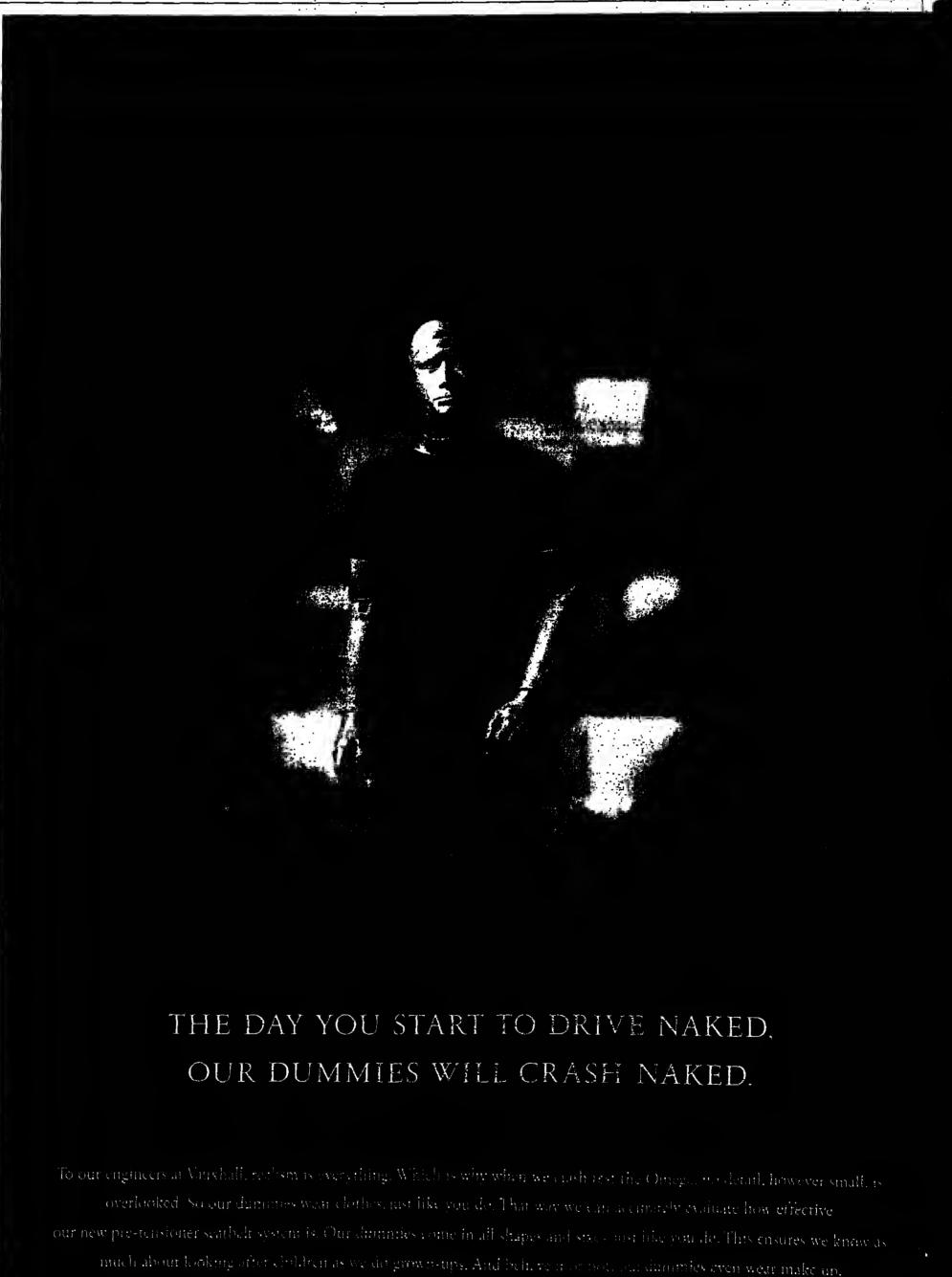
Iran jails women who killed missionaries

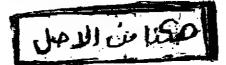
Tehran - An Iranian court jailed three women for killing two Protestant ministers and attempting to bomb Muslim shrines. Farahnaz Anami, a 31-year-old business student and employee of the National Iranian Oil Company, was jailed for 30 years, and two others received 20 years each.

Reuter

Capital exposure for Euro-weekly

Brussels - The first issue of the weekly European Voice, aimed at 6.000 MEPs, EU diplomats and European Commission officials, as well as the myriad business groups and lobbyists who seek to influence them, is due to reach subscribers today and to appear on news stands in all 15 EU capitals tomorrow. Reuter





INDEPENDENT - THURSDAY 5 OCTOBER 1995

Adoring US flock ready for the Pope

DAVID USBORNE

Pope John Paul was heading for New York yesterday to begin a four-day visit to the United States, the country he likes to call "God's playground", but with which he has an increasingly complex and strained

relationship.
Hundreds of thousands will greet him at three outdoor masses, in New Jersey, New York's Central Park and Baltimore. Today he will address the United Nations General Assembly.

But behind the cheering and

the moments of shared worship will be the background noise of deepening dissent among America's 56 million Catholics if not with the leadership offered by the Pope himself,

whom they adore, then with his strict positions on issues of reproduction, gender and campaign by Catholics to oppose it.

In turn, the Pope is known to

The devotion among American Catholics for the pontiff seems virtually unaffected by the debate on his actual teachings. Whatever they think of the message, they apparently still favour the messenger. An opin-ion poll published yesterday by ABC TV and the Washington Post indicated an 82 per cent approval rating for the Pope and for his stewardship of the

When it comes to the parts of the message, however, they flee him in droves. According to the same poll, 93 per cent of American Catholics believe practising hirth control is acceptable, 85 per cent think divorcées can still he good Catholics and 69 per cent said women who have abortions could also be good Catholics. Other polls have shown majority support in the US for women priests and a married

priesthood. Most sensitive among all these issues, because it crosses so completely into American political debate, is abortion. It was expected to be raised during a brief meeting yesterday beween the Pope, directly after his plane landed at Newark International Airport, and President Bill Clinton. The President is in favour of free choice on abortion, the pontiff, by con-

have mixed feelings about the US. "God's playground" it may be, and without question its Catholic Church, with its considerable wealth and huge following, is one of the most vibrant in the world. But he also sees the US as a place in moral decay. In recent weeks he has warned of the new enemies of hedonism, greed and con-sumerism - phenomena not unknown in America. In a recent address, he noted that the "light of Christ" came from the

East and that the "West has need of this light". At the UN today, the Pope is expected to urge greater work on protecting human rights and ending strife in Bosnia and Africa. On his flight vesterday, he spoke of the need also to shore up the UN itself. One speaks much about the crisis of the United Nations but even if it is in crisis it must be safeguarded because it is worth having this ... family of nations.

The "pilgrim Pope", mean-while, will spend his days in New York cocooned in unprecedented security. As far as is possible, he will be transported by helicopter or inside a 'Popemobile' fitted with a doubledome of hullet-proof glass. It will be much different from the last time he was in the Big Ap-ple, in 1979, when he rode the trast, has urged a world-wide streets in an open limousine.

Where lavatory humour hits the bottom line

Some gags never fail to cause hilarity, and the Japanese Toi-let Squirting Routine is one of these. I had the pleasure of witnessing it again at the house of an Australian friend. All the necessary elements were in place: a polite dinner party atmosphere, a newly arrived expatriate - known m Japanese as nama gaijin (raw foreigner) and, most important, a modern

Japanese hathroom. The Routine goes like this: Scene: an expatriate dining room. Profiteroles are being

served. Raw foreigner: Excuse me, darling, but where's the ..? Could I ..?

Hostess: Of course, it's the little door on the left, just behind the . . . that's the one! Hostess looks knowingly

around assembled guests. Guests fall silent with sadistic smirks.Somebody sniggers. Pause.

Raw foreigner (off): Eek! She scampers back in, water dripping from clothes, hair and earrings. Raw foreigner: lt ... it just

went off in my face! Assembled guests convulse with laughter, fall off their chairs, choke on their profiteroles. There are few more danger-

ous and unpredictable domestic appliances than the Japanese lavatory. The torture comes in two kinds. At one end of the scale are the traditional squat lavatories still found in a surprising number of offices and railway stations. The hazards of these are familiar to many travellers in Asia. You need the calf muscles of a hardened skier to suspend yourself painlessly over the ceramic trough. Even when you are in position there is the constant danger of change, keys and perhaps passports slipping out of pockets and into the

abyss.
But just as deadly in their way are the top end of the range: the techno-toilets which are de rigueur in well-to-do homes. The simplest model is called the Warmlet and contains a heating element in the seat - very comforting on cold days. Then there is the Washlet, a much more complicated affair, with a bank of controls which would not be out of place on the bridge of the starship Enterprise. As well as the heater, it features a bidet and blow-dryer - all in the single ceramic bowl. Each function has its own button, and there are dials controlling the power and temperature of the water jet. The problem is the functions are

labelled only in Japanese. This was the undoing of the victim at the dinner party. Having finished her lavatory business and washed her hands, she

chose a button at random, hoping it was the flush. Immediately, a small, angled nozzle extended itself with a whir from under the rim. Without waruing, it sprayed hot water straight into her face. She will never

make that mistake again. The ingenuity of the toilet wizards is not confined to the private home. Many urinals in public huildings are equipped with a light sensor which detects the presence of a customer and flushes automatically when he moves away.

Plans have just been un-veiled to install a new type of mobile toilet for elimbers on Mount Fuji. According to reports "it uses a kerosene heater to dry-hum human excrement, considerably reducing the volume of such waste and facili-tating collection."

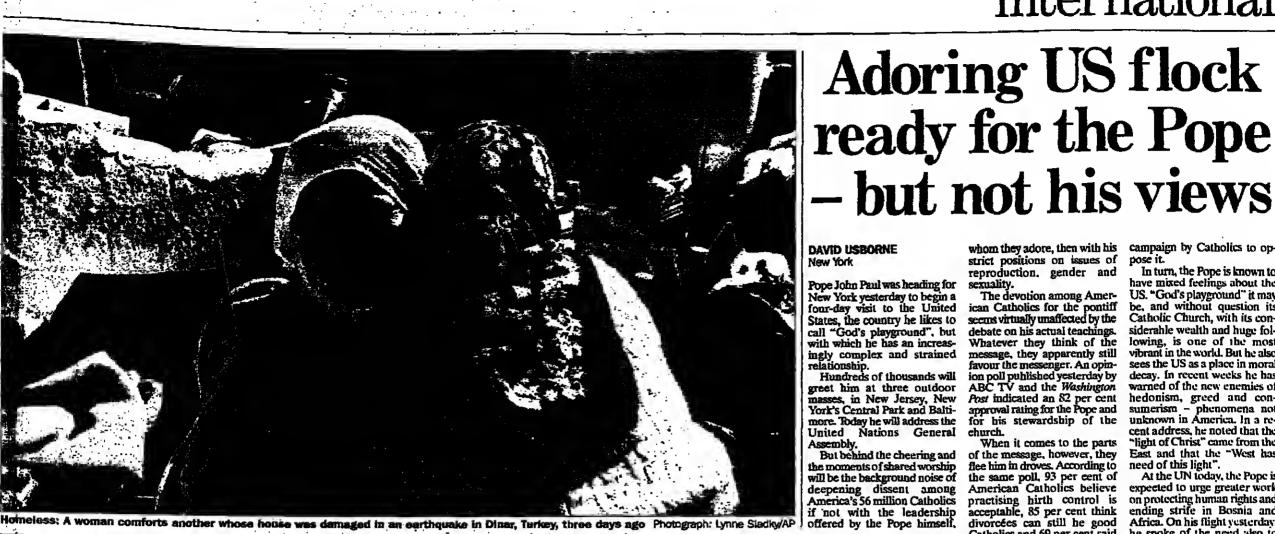
Japan's biggest toilet manu-facturer is Toto, a visionary corporation which once advertised the Warmlet with the slogan: "Your bottom will like it after three tries. Don't let people say behind your back that you have a dirty bottom." Toto's

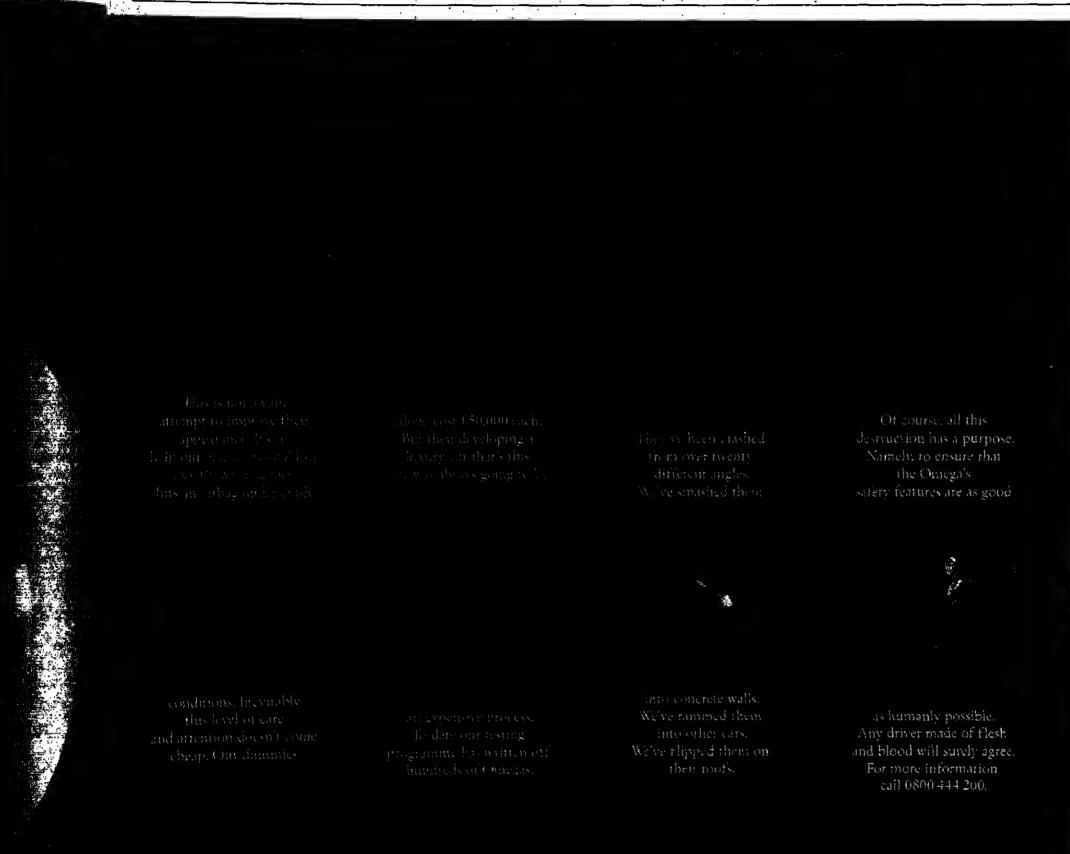
Watch for the Squirting Toilet Gag – coming to a bathroom near you soon

big 21st-century project is the so-called Intelligent Toilet. which will automatically process and analyse waste and warn the householder in advance of any medical worries. But the com-pany has a problem. Despite its immense domestic popularity. the Washlet has entirely failed to catch on overseas. In 1993, 720,000 techno-loos were sold at home at 100,000 yen (£635) each, hut only 720 in the whole of Europe, most of them to overseas Japanese. So Toto has set up an entire department the New Concept Group - to get to the bottom of this im-balance. Questionnaires have been dispatched, and foreigners have been whisked off to mountain retreats for research weekends where their views on toilet hygiene are eagerly canvassed by marketing men.

The latest buzz is that Toto has come up with its New Concept - a "Western Washlet", tailored specifically for foreign huttocks, which will be in the shops in the next couple of years. Watch out for the Squirting Toilet Gag, coming soon to a bathroom near you.

RICHARD LLOYD PARRY







J.D.

THE OMEGA FROM VAUXHALL

Professor Safa Khulusi

Safa Khulusi was a leading Arab historian, novelist, poet, journalist and broadcaster, and a fa-miliar figure in Islamic and in Arab academic circles in London, Oxford and Baghdad. He was a man of enormous intellectual capacity and an enduring love of the wrinen word, and his name became synonymous with Arabic literature for generations who studied his novels, literary articles and poems.

Khulusi was born in 1917, the son of a Baghdad lawyer. His mother died when he was four and Safa first came to London from Iraq as a student in 1935. at the age of t8. He obstinately refused to leave the city during the Blitz, but returned briefly to his native land during the latter stages of the Second World War. At the end of the war, he declined a ministerial position in British-administered Iraq, choosing to further Arab nationalism through academic rather than political means.

He returned to London to take up a post as lecturer in Arabic Studies at the School of Oriental and African Studies, London University, a post he held from 1945 to 1950. He obtained a PhD in Arabic literature in 1947, and in 1951, at the age of 34, became the youngest ever appointce to the Chair of Arabic at the University of Baghdad, where he remained until 1972. He was at the same time head of the Arabic Department at the University of Al-Mustansiriyyah, in Baghdad, one of the oldest univer-sities in the world. Inspired by his poet uncle Abdul-Majid Lutfi. Khulusi, with other young Arab writers such as the novelist Jafar Khalily, brought a renaissance to literature to a politically unstable Middle East.

During this period of revolutionary upheaval in Iraq, Khulusi remained politically neutral and concentrated on his writings. In 1958 the Iraqi king, Faisal II, and his uncle Prince Abdul Ilah



isk 'in Oxford we flower best'

were overthrown in a revolution and killed. One of their executioners was a former student of Khulusi's. When, in later life, Khulusi met this man again and questioned him on his part in the king's execution, his former pupil answered, "All I did was remember Palestine and the trigger on the machine-gun set itself off."

Khulusi's 32 published books include works of fiction - such as The Saddler's Daughter, a novel of the early 1950s, and Abu-Nuas in America (1956), a collection of short stories; literary history and criticism -Studies in Comparative Literature and Western Literary Schools

(1957), Jafar Khalily and the Story of Modern Iraq (1976); and religion and history - Islam Our Choice (1961) and The History of Baghdad (1962). Many of his books, in particular two works of the early Sixties, The Art of Translation and The Art of Po eny, ran to many editions and were incorporated into the curricula of schools and universities throughout the Middle East including the University of Baghdad, and universities in Damascus and in Amman. Khulusi also researched and published critiques of important ancient Arab manuscripts, and hosted television programmes on Iraqi television aimed at promoting a wide understanding of Arab literature and Islamic history. In the United States, he was invited to lecture at Yale and Princeton.

Khulusi came to Oxford in 1973 and was one of the team who produced the Concise Oxford English-Arabic Dictionary of Current Usage (1982), edited by the late Nakdimon Doniach at the Oriental Institute. Both Khulusi's family name and his given name translate to mean purity" (Khulusi is an adjectival derivation of "khuhus"), and both appear in the relevant entry in the dictionary. His articles appeared in Arabic journals both in Britain and in the Middle East, and his hroadcasts on the BBC Arabic Service from London established him as a man of the spoken as well as the written Arabic word.

In the late 1970s he became an influential figure in Islamic society in Britain, while living in Oxford; in the 1980s, he would visit Iraq annually for conferences and stay on for two or three months of the British winter. Wheo asked by colleagues in Baghdad wby he did not return to Iraq permanent-ly, he answered, "Our roots are here, but it's there that we flower best." As his son, I have a lasting image of him sitting in his study at home in Oxford, with his legs crossed, and bent over a manuscript - a letter to another writer, perhaps, an article or poem of his own or a PhD thesis on Arabic literature from a student at Durham, Londoo or Bath University.

He was elected Chairman of the National Muslim Education Council, helping to improve Islamic education whilst at the same time fostering cross-faith inderstanding and co-operation. He spoke loudly to dispel many of the myths which he felt marred his tolerant religion.

Khulusi was elected a memher of the Jordanian Arabic Academy and in 1993 was awarded the Gold Medal of Literary Merit, by the Iraqi Arabic Academy, for contributions to the advancement of Arab literature. His last two articles for the London-based Al-Arab Weekly were submitted from his hospi tal bed, when he was aware that he had only days to live.

Sam Khnlusi

Safa Abdul-Aziz Khulusi, scholar of Arabic literature, novelist, noet, journalist, hmadeaster hom Baghdad 17 August 1917; Professor of Arabic, University of Bachdad 1951-72; Head of Arabic Department, University of Al-Mustansiriyyah, Baghdad 1962-73; married 1959 Sabiha Al-Dabbagh (one son, one daughter); died London 8 September 1995.



fessional activities at once; in recent years these were handcolouring textiles - by hlockprinting or painting direct - and decorating china. Such items were destined for the bespoke interior design

Lesley Sunderland was an artist-craftswoman difficult to

categorise and delightful to

encounter. She managed styl-

ishly to combine several pro-

market and the homes of private clients, rather than galleries, for Sutherland's work appeals especially to those seeking, or claborating upon, an eccentric strand of urbane English

Born in 1947, Sunderland studied printed textiles at Chelsea Schoul of Art and the Royal College of Art, graduat-ing in 1971. As part of the "Swinging Sixties", she shared in the general enthusiasm for silk-screen printing, employing photo-derived imagery com-bined with hand-painting. Soon after leaving college she went to live in Los Angeles for a year and there produced a memo-rable series of sculpted, printed and painted gloves, later exhibited in London. These, masquerading as parrots or cacti, have been described as agressive, and were the nearest

to Pop Art of her works. On her return from America, and until 1984, Sunderland taught the strangely named subject of "surface design" at Cheisea School of Art, carrying on with her own furnishing textiles at the same time. From the early Eighties came images of cats, in which strikingly realistic felines claw their way up long drapes or sprawl on chaises-

longues. Sunderland never abandoned practicality in her work, which was always destined for real situations.

ley Sunderland worked in parallel with her imsband Jonathan Heale, the painter and woodengraver, making the pair loosely comparable with Lucienne and Robin Day or Alfred and Louise Powell. The Heales moved to Montgomery, in the Weish borders, in 1975 and converted a Victorian Sunday School into "Heale Hall", their home and studio. The house is dominated by one enormously large, high room which in turn is half-filled with a five-metre fabric-printing table. This was the engine-room where images - drawn, printed and painted took shape; inspiration came as much from the farmyard or the flower garden as from oth-

er textile traditions. The two

artists shared in projects and in infrequent exhibitions, held

from the early 1980s until

recently.
It was thanks to Jonathan Heale's expertise as a blockcutter that Sunderland took up woodblock-printing on cotton or linen cloth, turning herself, madvertently, into a unique craftswoman. The few other practitioners still printing this way use lino-faced blocks. The vast scale of Sunderland's motifs on the printed furnishing lengths demanded blocks measuring up to 24 inches across, and the repeating patterns are as rich as Italian Renaissance

borders. The fascination for the

Lesley Sunderland the Heates had long been friends and admirers of the idiosyneratic textile artist Joyce Clissold, of Footprints studio in Brentford, west London. Clis-Throughout her career Lessold, who died in 1982, included humorous references in her designs and shared with Suoderland an absorption in craft.

spiced with a hint of iconoclasm. In the last 10 years Lesley Sunderland increasingly took to hand-painting with dyes and pig-ments on cloth, for chair covers, window surrounds and used sets of curtains with matching pelmets. Her subjects ranged from wild trellises with swags to superbly controlled and faithfully coloured botanical specimens such as vines, talins, pinks and autumn leaves. On a smaller scale, she and her husband continuously decorated bone china blanks (white, factorymade plates, teapots, etc) and found them the perfect vehicle for studies of plants and insects. Painted China" was the title of their last joint exhibition held at the Economist building in December 1993.

Acute observation from nature, particularly the structure and behaviour of stems and foliage, is the real strength which lies behind Lesley Sunderland's talent as a designer. Coupled with this, a special kind of oractical creativity drove her to realise all her ideas herself, under her own high roof.

Margot Coatis

Lesley Sunderland, textile artist: born Henley-on-Thames 17 Oc-tober 1947; married Jonathan Heale (one son, one daughter, process, however, had come and one son deceased); died from quite another route, for Shrewsbury 18 September 1995.

Professor Anita Harding

In a branch of medicine where there are few female consultants. Anita Harding had reached the top and was poised to take over as head of the Department of Clinical Neurology at the Institute of Neurology. in London, at the time of her death, aged 42.

Harding was brought up in Birmingham and educated at King Edward VI High School for Girls. She qualified from the Royal Free Hospital Medical School in 1975. She started in 1982 as a registrar at the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery, where her academic potential was recognised by Professor Roger Gilliatt and she was made senior lecturer at the Institute of Neurology in 1986. She was promoted to Reader and in 1990 became the first ever woman Professor of Clinical Neurology in Britain. Her chosen speciality within Neurology was

Natalya Shpiller was a leading

lyric soprano at the Bolshoi

Theatre, Moscow, for 20 years

from 1935, and at one time the

intimate friend of Josef Stalin.

Born in 1909, the daughter of

doctor, she graduated from

Kiev Conservatoire in 1931,

and went to the Opera and Bal-

let Theatre in Samara on the

middle Volga. She was noticed

by a member of the Politburo

while on tour in Moscow and

The Bolshoi singers and bal-

et dancers were controlled by

the secret police, the GPU,

headed by Stalin's hangman-in-

chief Genrikh Yagoda. Lavish

receptions and intimate dinners

were held for foreign diplomats

invited to the Bolshoi.

discover what was needed to estahlish such a specialist department. In 1986 she set up the first Clinical Neurogenetics group in Britain at the National Hospital. There, she and her collaborators made fundamental discoveries about the inherited mitochondrial diseases which may result in a wide

spectrum of clinical disorders affecting the nervous system. Together with her husband, P.K. Thomas, an expert on peripheral oeuropathy, she stud-ied inherited peripheral nerve diseases and spinal muscular at-rophies, and with another group was looking at the neurogenetics of various movement disorders. She was the leading authority oo hereditary cerebellar ataxias and patients with ataxia were referred to her from all over Britain.

measure of Hard Clinical genetics was a new achievement in the Institute of May was found to have a car-friend was that "an advantage died 11 September 1995.

and statesmen, with the Bolshoi

beauties in attendance. At one

such reception Stalin noticed

the attractive young Shpiller.

GPU limousine.

subject in the 1980s and Harding travelled extensively to other laboratories world-wide to

Neurology was the number and quality of her publications as well as the value of research grants she won. She lectured abroad, and was regularly the star attraction at international neurological gatherings.

When she was not working, Harding enjoyed company im-mensely, as well as food, wine, holidays abroad and smart clothes, from being a junior doctor in trousers she became an internationally acclaimed professor in Armani suits. She was a keen supporter of her origi-nal house football team, West Bromwich Albion. She was a skilled carpenter, too, and constructed a mezzanine floor in her home garage - a proper car-pentry job with a full set of joists which was subsequently admired by local workmen, who inquired of Peter Thomas whether his wife might be

looking for work in the future. In April this year she was ski-

Natalya Shpiller

cinoma of the colon. She came back to work but by the end of August was unwell again and at a second operation was found to have disseminated cancer. Over the long August hank holiday weekend she assimilated this knowledge and by the following Wednesday gathered people round to say farewell. Her research fellows went to her bedside at Barts, their projects were discussed and even the journal to which their publica-

tion would be sent was agreed. Those privileged to see her during this period were humbled by her immense courage. An abiding memory for some will be sitting on the fire escape outside the Oncology Ward whilst she smoked in the late. summer sun and asked her visitors about themselves, their lives and plans. Although she discussed her illness in frighteningly frank terms she did not ntter a word of bitterness or Clinical Neurology 1990-95; anger. A typical remark to a married 1977 Peter Thomas;



of dying now is that it saves having to decide about updating to Windows 95".

and C. D. Marsden

Anita Elizabeth Harding, neurologist born 17 September 1952; FRCP 1989; MD 1981; Lecturer, Senior Lecturer in Neurology, RPMS and Institute of Neurology, London University 1983-87, Reader 1987-90, Professor of

one of them. Shpiller only

avoided a similar fate because

she had not been intimate with

But at 44 she had lost her po-

sition. For the next five years the

Guesin Institute remained her

only source of earnings. In the

Stalin for some years.

Sir Fred Warner

Fred Warner was perhaps the ablest diplomat of his generation and, with a little luck, surely would have risen to the very top, despite a certain irreverence, writes Hugh Lee [further to the obituaries by Sir Alan Campbell and Robert Cooper, 3 October].

When he had been in the Service a year, I wrote seeking his advice. I was still in the Army, a wartime officer stationed in a country under Communist control, and had recently married national of that country. Would this constitute o har to my entering the Foreign

"If you are a cleaner or a Consul-General," replied Waroer, "there is oo difficulty. Otherwise, Mr Secretary Bevin says, 'We must 'ave the Service British.'"

One of your two excellent obited that he never wrote anything for publication, writes Robert Kee. He was in fact the author of Anglo-Japanese Financial Relations: a golden tide (Black-

well, 1991).
As for his not being an intellectual, well, he was one, but far too humorous and civilised to appear like anything so

Romulo Escobar Bethancourt, politician, died Panama City 28 September, aged 68. Panama's chief negotiator for the Pana-ma Canal treaties in 1977, and a founder of the Democratic Revolutionary Party, which John Ayers, American foutball player, died Canyon, Texas 2 October, aged 42, Played for the San Francisco 49ers 1976-86,

1960s she occasionally performed at the Bolshoi, but her career was over. In the 1970s and 1980s she was completely forgotten, and during Gorgoverns Panama today. bachev's perestroika she avoided the press as best as she could.

and was included in two of

Forthcoming

marriages Mr R. S. N. Ames

The engagement is announced between Nicholas, son of Mr and Mrs Simon Ames, of Leigh, Surrey, and Tanya, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs David Hart, of Camberley, Surrey.

Birthdays

Sir Raymond Appleyard, biologist, 73; Mr Robin Bailey, actor, 76; Pro-fessor Sir Malcolm Brown, former Director, British Geological Survey, 70; Mr Alastair Chisholm of Chisholm, chief of the Clan Chisholm, 75; Miss Diane Cilento, actress, b2; Mr Ray Clemence, footballer, 47; Miss Stephanie Cole, actress, 54; The Most Rev Joseph Cunnane, former Roman Catholic Archhishop of Tuam, 82; Miss Laura Davies, golfer, 52: Mr Sebastian de Ferranti, former chairman, Ferranti, 68; Sir John Dent, former chairman, Civil Aviation Authority, 72; Mr Bob Geldof, rock singer and philanthropist, 41; The Right Rev Robert Hardy, Bishop of Lincoln, 59; Mr Vaclav Havel, President of the Czech Republic, 59; Lord Holderness, former government minister, 75; Miss Glynis Johns, actress, 72; Mr Robert Kee, author and broadcaster, 76; Miss Barbara Kelly, actress and broadcaster, 71; Mr Herbert Kretzmer, journalist and lyricist, 70; Mrs Kate Losinka, former trade-union leader, 71; Mr David Mellor, silversmith and designer, 65: Mr Bruce Millan, former gov-crament minister and a former Commissioner of the European Communities, 68; Sir Edward Peck

80; Sir Douglas Ranger, otolaryn-gologist, 79; Mr Adrian Sindall, am-bassador 10 Syria, 58; Mr Timothy Smith MP. 48: Sir Richard Thoma son Bt, former MP and director of British Museum Publications, 83; Mr Dave Watson, footballer, 49.

Anniversaries

Births: Margaret, Queen of Scots, wife of Alexander III, 1240; Denis Diderot, scholar and encyclopaedist, 1713; Charles-Geneviève Louis-Auguste André-Timothèe d'Eon de Anguste Abdre-Harothee d Eon de Beaumont (Chevalier d'Eon), spy and transvestite, 1728; Chester Alan Arthur, 2tst US president, 1830; Jean-Baptiste Edouard Detaille, painter, 1848; Robert Hutchings Goddard, rocket pioneer, 1882; Joshua Lockwood Logan, film and stage director, 1908; Flam O'Brien (Brian O'Nolan), novelist and play-wright, 1911: Donald Pleasence, actor, 1919. Deaths: Philip III ("the Bold"), King of France, 1285; Lodovico Ferrari, mathematician, 1505; Jacques Offenbach (Jakob Eberst), composer, 1880; playwright, 1920; Jean Vigo, film director, 1934; Leonard Rossiter, actor, 1984; Nelson Smock Riddle. composer and arranger, 1985. On this days the Gregorian calendar was adopted in Italy and Spain, and this day became 15 October, 1582; Spain declared war on Britain, 1796; the estate of Chequers was presented by Sir Arthur Lee as an official country residence for the Prime Minister, 1917; the Cominform (Communist Information Bureau) was set up to

Apollinaris of Valence, St Flora of Beaulieu, St Galla, St Magenulf or

Walter Goetz

A memorial service to celebrate the life of Walter Goetz will be held on Wednesday 25 October at St Paul's

English-Speaking Union Mrs Stella Rimington, Director-General of the Security Service, yes-

terday delivered the fourth in a series of lectures on Furthering International Understanding" held by the English-Speaking Union. She spoke on "National Security and International Understanding" at Skinners' Hall, London EC4. Baroness Brigstocke, Chairman of the English-Speaking Union, was in the chair. Professor Alan Watson, chairman of Burston-Marsteller Ltd, also spoke.

Queen's Counsel Advocates holding, or entitled to exercise, full rights of audience in the High Court or the Crown Court and who wish to be considered for appointment as Queen's Counsel are reminded that the closing date for applications is Monday 16 October 1995. Applications received after 12 noon on this date will not be considered. Application forms, together with "Notes for Guidance" for applicants, can be obtained from David Stobie, Lord Chancellor's Department, Room 6.33, Southside, aid European Communist parties, 1947: tea rationing ended in Britain, 1952. Today is the Feast Day of St 0171-210 1714). 105 Victoria Street, London SW1E

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS The Queen, accompanied by The Duthe of Edinburgh, visits Oordonstom School, Elgin, Morayahire, Prince Edward, Patton, attends the denting correctness of Foon, Spirit of Wight, a new Ocean Youth Cheft training wested, at St. Kallanier's Deck, London EG3, The Princess Buyet opens a new exercision at Maiston Neighbourhood Project, called the Thinity Project, Glossester; and as Patron. College of Occupational Therapists, opens St Oseandr's Restource Centre and Require Care Facility for People with Learning Disabilities, Glossester, Princess histogram attendes a gain performance of Cornea in aid of the 12th Britishing Append of the British Red Cross Society at the London Collegeum. London W.2. Princess Michael of Read proverts the Middand Dismonth Augustés at the Grend Hotel, Bronninghen.

Changing of the Guard The Household Cavalry Mounted Regime mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Gue Hua; let Bettellon Grezader Guards stowes Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Poloce, 11.30

Lectures National Gallery: Colin Wiggins, "The Northern Renaissance (i): Gos-

randa Neave, "Drinking Vessels: ceramic", 2.30pm. Royal Institute of British Archi-tects, London W1: Colin St John Wilson, "The New British Library",

National Portrait Gallery, Jacobite Lecture Series: John Cooper, "The '15, the '45 and the Faihure of Insurrection", 1.10pm.

Amountments for Gapatto BIRTHS, MAR-RIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Mirmotal survices, Wes-ding santhersaries, in Mojoorkan) should be sent in writing to the Geottic Edino. The In-terposited, I Chanada Spance, Canary Whert, Loadon E14-501, telephotod to 0777-293 2051 (24-hope placesting machine 0777-293 2052) or hand to 0777-293 2010, and were charged

parts in Ivan Susanin, Sadko. and The Maid of Pskov; Marguerite in Faust, the Countess in The Marriage of Figaro and Tatiana in Eugene Onegin.

She was 26 and he was 30 years her senior. Yagoda conveyed to In 1940 Stalin himself apher an invitation from Stalin for proved a list of singers, mchuddinner at his dacha in Kuntseng Shpiller as Sieglinde in Die vo. outside Moscow. She was Walkine, to perform at a private taken there in a hlack, curtained performance in honour of Joachim von Ribbentrop, Hit-According to Georgi Malenler's Foreign Minister, who sat kov, one of Stalin's deputies, next to Stalin in his box. After Stalin had a serious involvement the performance a dinner was with Shpiller. This was confirmed last year in the memoir served at the Kremlin for 700 guests, where Stalin and his of another Bolshoi singer, Vera cronies drank to "eternal Davydova - who replaced friendship with Germany". Shpiller found herself seated as Shpiller in Stalin's affections. During her 23 years at the Bolshoi Shpiller sang leading number seven among the women Stalin had invited.

Her status remained high, and rival, Vera Davydova, was and when in 1943 Stalin signed a list of winners of that year's Stalin Prize Shpiller was on it. In 1950 Stalin gave her a second Stalin Prize, which brought her many privileges. Stalin included her three times in his selection of those who were

allowed to perform abroad. In 1950 Shpiller was contacted by the director of the clite Moscow Guesin Music Institute and offered a job there training

young opera singers. book about her, Natalya Shpiller,

In February 1953 a small appeared. But after Stalin's death in March that year many of Stalin's close associates were arrested. Shpiller's fellow artist.

Jeanne Vronskaya Natalya Dmitryevna Shpiller, singer born Kiev 7 November and was included in to 1909; died Moscow 20 July 1995. their Super Bowl teams.

Contributions to compensation scheme upheld

5 October 1995

parte Sun Life Assurance Society ple and others; Queen's Bench Division (Mr Justice Sedley); 31 August 1995 The rules of the SIB's juvestors' compensation scheme can require members of a self-

tribute to the cost of making good the defaults of nony m be made in respect of those Mr Justice Sedley dismissed Sun Life's application for judicial review of the investors'

compensation scheme made by the SIB. Section 54 of the Financial Services Act 1986 provides: 1) The Secretary of State may by rules establish a scheme for compensating investors where persons who are or have been authorised are unable, or likely to be unable, to sat-isfy claims in respect of any de-scription of civil liability incurred by

Regina v Securities and Investment Board and another, ex

regulating organisation to con-

them in connection with their investment business. 2) . . . the rules under this section may (a) provide for the administration of the scheme ... (b) establish a fund out of which compensation is to be paid ... (c) provide for the levying of contributions from ... anthorised

persons ...
3) A scheme under this section shall not be made so as to apply to persons who are members of a LAW REPORT

recognised self-regulating organi-sation except after consultation with ioined PIA. that organisation ... and no scheme applying to such persons shall be made unless the Secretary of State made unless the Secretary of State is satisfied that the rules establishing it make sufficient provision.

(b) for securing that the amounts which they are liable to contribute reflect, so far as practicable, the amount of the claims made or like-

The SIB set up the scheme under section 54 of the Finan-cial Services Act 1986 to compensate people whose civil claims against participant firms in relation to the conduct of investment business were likely to go unsatisfied. The Personal Investment Authority, a selfregulating organisation whose members include Sun Life and those who sell pensions and conduct investment husiness, administered compensation payable by its members, to whom it passed on levies made by the scheme. It replaced Lautro, the Life Assurance and Unit Trust Regulatory Organisation, and Fimbra, the

Financial Intermediaries Man-

agers and Brokers Regulatory

whose former members had

Sun Life applied for judicial review of rules of the scheme on the grounds that its liability to contribute to the cost of making good the defaults of a non-member was unlawful under section 54(3)(b).

Charles Flint QC and Monica Carry-

Frisk (Allen & Overy) for the applicants; Michael Brindle QC, Michael Fordham and Veranique Buehrlen (SIB) for the SIB; Richard Gordon QC and Sean Wilken (Richards Butler) for PIA.

Mr Justice Sedley said that section 54(3)(b) required provision made by the rules to produce contributions from the existing members of each selfregulation organisation, the amount of which so far as practicable reflected the claims made or likely to be made on them. The true purpose of section 54(3) was not to allocate liability but to provide for the means of discharging it. It was the rules which were to allocate

liability. Section 54(1) and (2) con-Association Ltd, not all of ferred powers wide enough by rules under attack. Section 54(3) qualified those provisions not by limiting the liability of the members of the SRO to the amount of the claims against them and their predecessors, but by ensuring so far as practicable that the contributions made by the members of an SRO were sufficient to discharge the liabilities which they were likely to be called on to meet. What the amount of those liabilities was would be determined by the other rules.

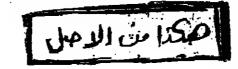
themselves to legitimate the

There was no fetter in the Act on the mode of distribution of the burden of claims among different groups of authorised persons. To elect to place the burden on PIA members was arguably harsh but the outcome was a matter for the selfregulatory process and not for the court. Section 54(3)(h) gave enough latitude to allow members of ooc SRO to contribute in an amount which reflected the defaults of others who were outside the SRO hut from whom it was judged impracticable to secure contributions.

The applications therefore

Ying Hui Tan, Barrister

· Supering



news analysis

Should the NHS buy expensive treatment for a few multiple sclerosis sufferers? Medical history is littered with such difficult decisions, says Nicholas Timmins

Abitterpill toswallow

A mother new and expensive ireat-ment hits the headlines - this unaffordable. Today the real cost of time beta-interferon, for the treat-ment of multiple scierosis. The drug is not yet licensed but is expected to cost between £7,000 and £10,000 a more and cost less in real terms than year. A paper in the British Medical Journal warns that eventually per-haps 45 per cent of Britain's 80,000 MS victims might benefit – a potential bill of £380m annually, or 10 per cent of the National Health Service

drugs budget.

A leading article in the same journal thunders that "clearly the NHS is not going to be able to meet the costs of new treatments - just as the Department of Health insists

that the drug will not be rationed. Is the NHS in crisis over new and high-tech treatments? The answer is no. There is, without doubt, a prob-lem and, for the first generation of patients who might benefit, an acute one. Plainly, not everyone will receive it immediately, not least because there is limited manufacturing capacity and because more research is needed to determine precisely who will benefit and by how

The Department of Health estimates that beta-interferon could prove effective for perhaps only one in eight sufferers. None the less, some priorities will have to be set about who gets it, and the issue is raised all the more starkly because beta-interferon is not a cure; it reduces the fre-

quency of relapses. before: this is not the first time the NHS has felt itself at the mercy of a costly, even unaffordable, technological imperative. That first struck in the Sixties as a string of new and more expensive treatments became available. Health economists calculated in 1967 that 90 per cent of the medicines then available were unknown in 1938 and 50 per cent were unknown five or six years car- reached the media because kidney lier. The NHS survived that apparent crisis and will survive this one.

Projections that such treatments are unaffordable ignores falling real costs over time as products become Bewick, a transplant surgeon at Dul-wich Hospital, south London, virtually bankrupted his health authority single-handed by spending £350,000 - more than £1m in today's money - on an anti-rejection drug. Today, according to Mr Bewick, its real cost has fallen by more than 80 per cent and it is in widespread use around

the country. When Britain's heart transplant programme restarted in the late Seventies and early Eighties, the transplants proved so costly that Patrick Jenkin and Gerry Vaughan, the health ministers, considered

a heart transplant is down, as it has proved possible to discharge patients when they were launched, and the same is beginning to apply to the new keyhole surgery equipment and a range of other technological interventions. Medicine is a moving pioture, not a static world.

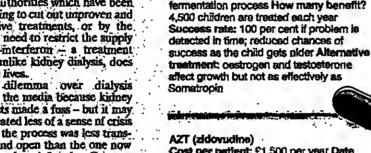
At present, beta-interferon and many of the other new hio-technolngy products are expensive because they have to be produced in small batch sizes. Some in the industry believe that will always be the case and they will remain per manently expensive. Others hold that someone, somewhere, will find a cheaper way of producing them if the demand is there -a lesson that has applied in the past to a huge range of different technologies from compoters to cars and

telecommunications. This does not mean hard choices do not have to be faced when new treatments first appear. In the late Seventies, in many kidney units the only people to be dialysed were married men, with children, under the age of 55. There were too few machines, the treatment was too expensive, resources had to be concentrated on those who would most benefit and had families to support.

That was a rationing decision far more brutal and barsh than any However, we have been bere made in the string of recent announcements by Berkshire, West Ynrkshire and nne of the Essex health authorities which have been attempting to cut out unproven and meffective treatments, or by the possible need to restrict the supply beta-interferon - a treatment which, unlike kidney dialysis, does not save lives.

The dilemma over dialysis specialists made a fuss - but it may have created less of a sense of crisis because the process was less transparent and open than the one now being produced by the Governpurchasers and providers. The process may be more open, but it is no more difficult than in the past.

As more was spent on health,



Cost per patient: £1,500 per year Date licensed in UK: 1987 Users and function: used for HIV sufferers with symptoms of fu -blown Aids or those whose CD4 lymphocyte cell count is declining. Inhibits replication of the virus Why expensive? It is administered in hospital How many benefit? 16,000 people Success rate: it is tha only HIV drug that is resistant to many types of the virus. It slows the progression of HIV Alternative treatment: cocktail or combination drug mixture of AZT and Didanosine (ddi) which is still being

Cost per patient: £7,500-10,000 per year UK licence: Imminent Users and function: used for a minority of multiple scierosis sufferers. increases remission periods and helps insulate nerve endings Why expensive? Cell

systems are chemically menipulated - a highly sophisticated procedure How many benefit? Roughly 10,000: one in eight of all UK MS sufferers Success rate: it is not a cure. Only the symptoms of MS can be treated Alternative treatment: co-polymer-1 replaces lost protein but can bring on relapses. Alpha interferon will soon be available to combat the cause of MS

Cost per patient: £1,000-£2,000 per year Data licensed in UK: 1990, but around

Growth hormone (sometropin)

waight and prevent ageing Why expensive? Made by an intricate

since the Shities Users and function: antipsychotic used for treatment of schizophrania Why expensive? Monitoring is costly: patients have frequent blood tests How many benefit? Not known Success rate: 60 per cent Alternative treatment: high doses of other anti-psychotics can cause a condition called tardive dyskinesia. (muscular spasms)

中心を明めた大きのできる。 こうちょうかんりゃん Cost per patient: £5,000 for first year Date Cost per patient: £7,500 per year per person Date licensed in UK: 1994 Users Ilcensed in UK: 1985 Users and function: used by children whose growth is stunted. May soon be licensed for adults to control

and function: treats cystic fibrosis. It liquifies phiegm in the lungs and helps prevents infection Why expensive? A lot of research work involved How many benefit? 25 per cent of 6,000 CF sufferers Success rate: It is not a cure, but eases the condition Alternative treatment: daily physiotherapy. No other drug performs the same function

Cost per patient: £1,000-£1,200 a dose;

three needed before patient responds Date

relapsed breast cancer. Taxol is only used after other treatments have failed and

It a treatment for relapsed ovarian

nour, licence has now been exte

only prolongs life: it is not a cure Why

expensive? Mada from scarce natural

benefit? Not known Success rate: 20-40

per cent Alternative treatment: there are

Cost per patient: £5,000 a year UK licence refused: licensed 1993 in US Users and

function: used to treat Alzheimer's. Stops

expensive? Developing a new drug costs

drug of its type so companies can set the

price. How many benefit? About 5-10 per

cent Success rate: It is very toxic and can

cause liver damage; 30-50 per cent of people would suffer liver damage

Alternative treatment: no alternative

etween £100m and £200m. It is the only

breakdown of neuro-transmitters Why

product - yew tree bank How many

other drugs but they are more toxic

Erythropoletin (*epo*) Cost per patient: £2,500-£3,000 a year Date licensed in UK: May 1990 Users and function: used for patients with Iddney fallure who ha stopped producing 'epo', a hormone which stimulates red blood cell manufacture. Why expensive? it's impossible to extract naturally: all the urine in the UK would only produce enough epo to treat 10 patients for a year. Tha hormone is extracted from a Chinese hemster cell How many benefit? 10,000 people in the UK use a dialysis machine; 40 per cent are on epo Success rate: 99 per cent Alternative treatment: dialysis. kidney transplant or blood transfusion. Other

treatments have drawbacks. Patients are often

too tired to get to a dialysis machine

seemingly inevitably, spend a higher share of their greater wealth on healthcare - kidney dialysis became much more widely available.

the doctor

Elght very expensive drugs

This still leaves hard choices to be made when new treatments first appear. The problem is not unique to the NHS; it is a problem of healthcare everywhere. In the United States, for instance, the most costly and profligate healthcare system in the world, doctors are increasingly being forced by insurers and health maintenance organisations to work to agreed protocols of what can be provided in order to ensure that only effective treatments are provided and costs are contained.

If the beta-interferon treatment does prove to cost £10,000 annually per patient, then, when average earnings are just over £17,000 a year, it is plainly not going to be whether on the NHS or not. Private insurance offers no answers here -MS sufferers are anyway not covered for their condition under Bupa-style policies - and beta-interferon would not be, either, because it alleviates a chronic condition but does not provide a cure.

How should such new treatments be handled? The first and crucial thing is to evaluate them properly. The history of modern medicine is littered with "miracle" cures and treatments which proved, on closer examination, to be nf far more limited value than the optimists first believed.

For example, for decades, the removal of inflamed tonsils and adenoids was by far the most common operation that ear, nose and throat surgeons performed - more than 190,000 such operations a year as late as the Sixties. But as surgeons and paediatricians came to realise that the condition cleared up spontaneously in many children, the operations dropped - so that fewer than 10,000 are now performed

Equally, the rapid, unevaluated adoption of the monitoring of babies super-safe deliveries, proved to do nothing of the sort when applied indiscriminately. Today, the lecb-

however - and growing nations, nique is used much more sparingly and precisely.

Or take an operation for boring out the carotid artery after a stroke to reduce the chances of a second one. The procedure has been performed 20 times more frequently in the US than in Britain, leading to arguments that Britain was rationing it to the point of under-provision. The latest trials, however, according to Bryan Jennett, emeritus professor of oeurosurgery at Glasgow Uni-versity, show it is beneticial only where the artery has become narrow and occluded - the cases on which British surgeons have concentrated. Performed in milder cases, the risks of the operation have been discov-

ered to outweigh the gains. This does not apply just to surgery. Boots's heart drug. Manoplax, when fully evaluated. was just the latest in a long line of drugs that have failed to live up to their early promise and have had to be withdrawn. By the time betainterferon is fully evaluated - and its long-term consequences are. inevitably, unknown - it may turn out to be of real value only to a limited group of patients.

How should the decision be made as to who should get it? The department's approach is reasonable. It is to issue guidelines recommending that the drug be prescribed solely hy consultant neurologists after a full assessment - ensuring only that those where there appears to be proven benefit receive it, while prop-erly conducted clinical trials establish whether it is nf value to other

Is this rationing? Only in the sense that it is rational. Will it deny the treatment to patients who might benefit? Some, initially, inevitably but that is part of the price of progress, of ensuring that, ultimately, healthcare money is spent on effective treatments, a requirement felt as strongly in privately funded systems as in the NHS.

There is noe further point. In the same week that the BMJ was bemoaning beta-interferon's unaf-fordability, Britain's other leading appeared to offer the prospect of medical journal, the Lancet, was reporting early but encouraging work on a vaccine for MS. It appears to offer the same benefits - fewer relapses, but no cure - to similar patients to those who look set to gain from beta-interferon, Should it work, its costs may prove a fraction of

those of the drug. Medicine does not stand still. No one can be sure that history will repeat itself and that healthcare will remain affordable, within rising health spending and funded by ris-ing wealth. But it is a not unreason-able bet.

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The White Sman note

Diary

JOHN WALSH

"So anyway," I said to Umberto Eco over salmon steak at Mosimann's (this is the kind of sentence one spends one's whole professional life longing to write), "what are the chances of your Italian publishers landing in court for corruption before your next book comes out?" Precious few, it seems, since Italian publishers, like their British counterparts, don't make enough money to warrant a bung to the taxman; but it hardly mattered. We were there to launch his new novel. The Island of the Day Before, and frankly, when you're with Signor Eco, you'd do anything to attract his attention. To have the black, bespectacled, hippopotamoid eyes of this colossus of learning trained upon you, even for a moment, is something to tell your grandchildren. Inside his badger-bearded, professorial bonce (Bob Hoskins meets Pavarotti), the wisdom of the ages wrestles with a fondness for James Bond and Mutant Ninja Turtles.

Like the few geniuses I've met — Anthony Burgess, Peter Ustinov — Eco
radiates appetites which, in a lesser man, would seem gross. He knocked over
his wine glass three times with tremendous unconcern. Between conversational

salvoes, he selected a cigar the size of a drampipe, fellated it with enthusiasm, then turned it sideways-on and sucked it as though removing the butter from corn-on-the-cob. Ynu couldn't take your eyes nff him. But disaster followed. Discovering Eco was planning a book-buying

expedition in London (he collects 14th-century works of scientific learning). I asked what he coveted most for his vast library. "Anything, provided eet ees wrong," he said. "But most of owl, the

work of Robert Flood. Mosta his works, they fall prey to a microorganism in the piges, which are stain' red. I geef an thing for a Flood book with white piges." Robert Flood? I asked. Who he? The saurian eyes flickered with irritation. "Seventeenth century. Breetish. "E was interested in ev'thing - cosmningee, the circulating of the blood, the composition of armees ... Don't you find it odd, Professor, I

asked in my suave, we're-all-experishere voice, that be's completely unknown in England? An awful growl sounded in the maestro's hairy throat. "E ces nnly unknown ... TO YOU!" he yelled across the table, which rocked with sycopbantic laughter. Death, I discovered, is not, after all, the worst that can befall you.

Meeting Eco also threw up one of the trickier questions of protocol for today's globally renowned intellectual. How do you fend off one who wants you to speak at their conference in 1998? Eco's celebrity means he is in constant demand to transfix them

The reverberating Eco with cabalistic motifs in Cambodia, dismay them with deconstructionist scorn in Santa Fe, knock 'em dead with the semiotics of motorway construction in Knala Lumpur. Only Tom Wolfe, I believe, gets rung up quite so much and has a similarly crammed schedule, with hardly a day

in the next 24 months unsecounted for Camille Paglia, Jonathan Miller and Susan Sontag can probably boast a year's worth of lucrative appointments (and HM the Queen, of course, will find it impossible to build in a trip to the launderette before, say, next July). So how do you turn down invitations for the far future? "Ees impossible," said the cannelloni bolognese, "Foo hafta say, naow, I HATE you, I want do cet".

Bad etiquette, Umberto. Lord Beaverbrook had a better stratagem when pestered for a meeting by an objectionable hack. "If not this year, your Lordship," pleaded the hack (in October), "How about next year? How about, I dunno, March the 12th?" "Impossible," grated Beaverbrook, shall be attending a funeral that week." By the time the importuner had worked it out, the phone had

Amid all the speculation about the epidemic of marital busts-ups -Bob and Paula, Hugh and Liz, Will and Julia, Ken and Em - I take my hat off to Hennell, the New Bond Street jewellers, for a bold initiative. They've been offering homosexual couples "commitment rings" to cement their relationships. The newstyle rings (from £750 to £15,000) are round, but not quite closed, to symbolise the "space" that is apparently a boon to gay marriages.

This approach is just what any modern relationship needs. They should market the rings for celebrity couples, complete with a pair of pliers and a tapered awl, to close and open the love token as your affection wanes, and thus let one's beloved know where be or she stands every morning - from the perfect circle ("I love you") to the three-quarter moon ("I'm going off you because you were so vile at dinner"), the two-thirds crescent ("I'm thinking of moving in with Derek") to the dismissive halfcircle ("I must once have found you among the more amusing of my parents' many friends") that falls off while you're washing up.

You have to admire the late Jill

embittered, alcoholic wreck by the end, but she bed flair. I saw her once at a party at John Mortimer's in Henley, filling the marquee with a tirade of effing and blinding at Thomas Schoch, the long-suffering stockbroker who was her final consort Now the details of ber will have been contested by the companions of ber last mooths, Alisoo Braid and Linda Drew, who were aghast to discover that her estate of £600,000 had been left to Battersea Dogs' Home. I'm glad to see that Ms Braid and Ms Drew managed to claw back a few grand in the courts. But how piquant to find that, having initially insisted Mr Schoch should get nothing from her. Ms Bennett relented, leaving him all her ashtrays, except one. Not since Shakespeare left Anne Hathaway his second-best bed has a lover been so silkenly snubbed. And you can't help asking: who got Jill Bennett's favourite

A friend has just come back from New York in rantures about "Wigstock", the riotous one-day festival of transvestism in Greenwich Village last month. Among all the carnival stuff, one sight made his isw drop: at the end of Christopher Street stood a chap in a spangled Marie Antoinette ootfit with a milehigh wig and, draped on his shoulder, a long, sleepy-eved, bright green chameleon - wearing its own purple pompadour. Where can I get one? Harrods?



Bennett. She might have been a tragic, A simply wizard lizard



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Labour – must try harder

Y esterday respectable old Labour, in the appropriately jowly shape of the former deputy leader, Roy Hattersley, had its say about education. There should be one, undivided service, he told the conference, a single "unified system of comprehensive education". To that end he condemned the education spokesman, David Blunkett's plans to allow grant-maintained schools to hold a slightly different status from ordi-nary schools. He was not mollified by Mr Blunkett's assertion that such questions of structure were beside the point. Standards and structure were bound together and could not be separated, he argued.

On this last point Mr Hattersley is surely right. Of course Mr Blunkett and Mr Blair deserve credit for for their stress on improving the quality of teachers, for accepting the need to measure performance and for sending out clear signals about the intention to raise standards. But there is nevertheless something unsatisfactory about the leadership's current attempt to sweep under the carpet the question of how and by whom access to education is to be controlled.

In the first place, according to Mr Blair, new Labour's crusade for education (unlike Mr Hattersley's) embraces the idea of a diversity of schools. The Labour leader painted a picture in which there would be schools which emphasised music. or maths, or design, "Schools with a specialism that hrings out the best in their pupils", as he put it. This vision of the education system is both more attractive and more relevant than the hureaucratic egal-

itarianism of the Hattersley camp.

But on what basis will children be allocated to such schools? Labour has set its face against selection either by examination or by parental interview. At the moment geographical proximity ("catchment") is the main factor in the state sys-tem. Such a system cannot coexist with the

development of more specialised schools. So, just as denominational schools demand some level of religious commitment on the part of pareot or child, specialist schools would need to be assured of some level of aptitude. Some form of negotiation between parent and school is inevitable; the challenge is to develop a set of criteria which is transparent and which allows as much weight as possible to the view of the parents. We have as yet no idea about

how Labour thinks this might be done.

Mr Blunkett's stance is that a new education system for a new Britain will come about through a drive to raise standards in schools through the efforts of boards of governors, local education authorities, inspectors and the government. These bodies will employ headteachers, moni-tor performance and take any necessary action. Which is fine as far as it goes. What it completely fails to do, however. is to harness the perceptions, desires and choices of the parents themselves as an organic driver of standards. Yet, as we have discovered in practically every other area of service provision, allowance for consumer choice provides an important stimulus to improving performance and signalling wheo things are going wrong. To be fair to oew Labour, there are for-

midable practical difficulties involved in giving practical shape to the ideal of parental choice. We have not yet discovered how to "grow" popular schools, while managing the decline of those that are failing. But it is depressing that Mr Blunkert and his col-leagues, despite seeing off the Hatters-levites, have set their faces so sternly against any discussion of vouchers, even experimentally in extending access to ours-ery education. As a result of such restricted vision they are in danger of leading a cru-sade not to the Promised Land, but only as far as the Slightly Better Land.

The war crimes of Croatia

President Franjo Tudiman's government came to power in Croatia claiming to represent democracy. European culture and Christian values. Its conquest of the rebel Serb areas of the Krajina was accompanied by renewed bombast to that effect and drew applause from Croatia's sponsors, Germany and the United States. It is now clear that Croatian forces committed widespread murder against elderly Serb noncombatants while looting and burning Serb homes. Under any of the international legal convections which Croatia purports to recognise, these are war crimes.

The European Union and the United Nations have both gathered compelling evidence of Croatian atrocities. The human rights group Helsinki Watch discovered that 12 Serb civilians aged between 60 and 85 were slaughtered in a village near the fallen Serb "capital" of Knin. Then their corpses were removed by helicopter to Knin for hurial in secret.

The critical point about the Helsinki Watch report is the degree of official complicity in criminal acts which it reveals. It is no longer credible for Croatian ministers to explain such excesses to their European colleagues as the work of isolated elements.

A government that claims closer kinship to Vienna and Paris than to Belgrade and Sarajevo must he measured by the standards it sets itself. President Tudiman cannot act by the rationale of racial supremacy at home and pose as a sophisticated democrat to the rest of Europe.

Nor can the atrocities in the Krajina be excused with the lament that Serbs and Muslims are also guilty of war crimes. The values of the rule of law and the observance of buman rights are indivisible.

There has been so much hand-wringing over Europe's failure to avert tragedy in the former Yugoslavia that we may think sible to do much about th est atrocities. That is not so. It is precisely because Croatia seeks to distinguish itself from the other states of former Yugoslavia that it is vulnerable to pressure. Its European aspirations furnish a lever to correct and restrain its conduct. Croatia should be told that it can expect

oo political favours and extract no economic concessions from the European Union unless this behaviour ceases and the guilty are brought to justice. The same stance should be taken by all European institutions whose membership confers respectability on the government in Zagreb. If Germany wishes to speak up for Croatia, that is its privilege. Other foreign offices and ministers will no doubt protest the risk of upsetting the peace process and the undesirability of annoying Mr Tudjman. That is as much self-deception as the declaration by the US ambassador to Zagreb that the flight of at least 140,000 Serbs from the Kraiina "was oot ethnic cleansing". We cannot thunder moral indignation at the Serbs while granting the Croats a licence to murder. In this case Europe can make a difference - and it should.

ANOTHER VIEW Matthew Lonsdale

We have been misinformed

Overall, I have faith in the value of the Advertising Standards Authority and my starting point is simple: I do believe that advertising needs to be regulated, for its own good and that of the consumer. And I prefer this regulation to be carried out not by some quango, but by a knowledgeable self-regulatory body such as the ASA.

So I feel terribly let down when it puts its collective foot in it, as I believe it has done in its recent criticism of various environmental pressure groups and charities. The ASA accuses them of "misinforming people by exaggerating or stretchiog the truth, exploiting the trust that the public have ..." in them.

A Greenpeace advertisement, it says,

was misleading because it did not conclusively link chemicals dumped at sea with shrunken male genitalia. A Friends of the Earth cinema advertisement did not wholly justify claims of desecration of the world's mahogany resource. And a press advertisement which pointed out, oo behalf of Animal Welfare, that before committing serial murders Jeffrey Dahmer mntilated small animals, was deemed shocking and offensive simply hecause it reconoted his story.

The ASA has used two grounds of assault: the quasi-objective accusation of unproven facts, and the more subjective one of offensiveness. Let's deal with the second one first. We have just experienced a year or more of gruesome OI overdose, several horribly graphic and distressing cases of child murder, and no doubt there will be weeks of feasting on the Rosemary Advertising Limited.

West case. Let us oot forget that in the same year as Dahmer committed serial murder, society chose to honour the depicfloo of that practice by making The Silence of the Lambs an Oscar-winning film. And

Animal Welfare is being offensive?
What Dahmer did is shocking, the plain telling of that story in a broadsheet newspaper pateotly is not, and the ASA ought to be made to stand in the corner of the classroom notil it has worked out the difference.

The charge of unproven facts attracts me. Being unable conclusively to prove something has now become synonymous with misinformation and exaggeration, has it? If I argued with the ASA that, in a good cause, it is sometimes decessary to stretch the truth, it would come down on me like sculpture of hricks. But do you remember "Labour's Double Whammy"? Do you recall an entire Tory election campaign fought on the "we-won't-tax-you-but-they-will-lots" platform? Might that also have been misinformation or exaggeration? And having bought the Tory party, we cannot take it back to the shop the minute we find the claim faulty, can we?

I suspect the ASA of double standards here. Greenpeace is an easy target; Tories less so. The charge of offensiveness should be dismissed, in this context, as irrelevant; and on the charge of misinformation we, the jury, find the precedent has been set by the Government.

The writer is a director of McCann-Erickson



- LETTERS TO THE EDITOR -

split America

From Mr Trevor Lyons
Sir: It appears the OJ Simpson trial and verdict bas split America oo a simple black/white racial divide. How much better it might have been had the US about have been had the US aban-dooed the binary "guilty/not guilty" model in favour of the tra-ditional Scottish system with verdicts ranging from "guilty" to "not guilty" via "not proven".

Had the OJ jury been able to select the "not proven" verdict, the prevalent sentiment that "we're-pretty-certain-you-did-itbut-they-haven't-quite-proved-it" could have been expressed. With a "not proven" verdict, OJ would still be free, but the patent injustice of a full acquittal could have been avoided. Hooour would have been satisfied, and racial

tensions might have been calmed. One should not forget that any criminal justice system exists oot solely to punish the offender. and their relatives. A "not proven" verdict would have provided a useful neutral starting point for any subsequent civil case for compensation. Yours faithfully.

TREVOR LYONS Senior Lecturer in Law Staffordshire University Stoke-on-Trent 4 October

From Ms Maia E. Adele Sir: As a holder of both British and American nationality. I would like to beg the British public to stop their inexorable complaining about the state of the UK judicial system and thank the Lord (or whoever) that they are not prey to the US system which, by now, must have been exposed to even the most believ ing among us as being corrupt, hiased and hlatantly misguided. The OJ Simpson trial was surely the end of US justice. Will there be reforms, and changes in the system to control the media accessibility to courtrooms?

Sadly, I do not think so. That this has been the mos enjoyable television Americans have seen in years, as the cousistent viewing figures have demon-strated, is possibly a reflection on the dreadful quality of US TV programmes, but more probably a reflection of how Americans have been persistently bludgeoned into believing that this was some kind of trial about racial issues instead of a murder

trial. As a criminologist I find the whole situation farcical, incredible, but, more sadly, unsurprising There are admittedly many flaws in British justice, but before you shout about them in future count to 10 and think of OJ Simpson.

Yours, M. E. ADELE Brighton 4 October

From Mr Paul Ashion Sir: If Lord Lucan is alive, perbaps he should consider turning himself into the Los Angeles police for trial there. Yours faithfully, PAUL ASHTON Eastbourne, East Sussex

Letters should be addressed to Letters to the Editor and include : daytime telephone number. (Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@ lent.co.uk) Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

Verdict that has It may be ugly, but it's part of our heritage

From Mr David Morton Sir: Peter Popham ("Brutalist, original, but a slum", 2 October) raises the contentious issue of listing buildings less than 30 years after they were constructed. There is as yet no unanimity of

view about modern architecture and townscape. The Royal Town Planning Institute carried out internal consultation on the 40 modern buildings that the Secre-tary of State for National Heritage has proposed for listing. There was general agreement that some should or should not be listed, but oo the majority there were widely differing views. There is clearly a need for a debate, involving the public as well as the various specialists, about which elements of modern architecture and planning should be pre-served, and it will obviously take

time for a consensus to develop. It may seem difficult to believe oow that in, say, 30 years, there will be general support for modern schemes, as examples of the development of town planning; but the same could have been said about Victorian townscape 25 years ago. It took 60 to 90 years before Victorian buildings became obsolete. Because of the increasing speed of economic change, modern buildings reach that stage within 30 years, and are then often demol-

ished or substantially refurbished.

Sir: As the Labour Party heatedly

debates the future of grant-main-

tained (GM) schools, it is worth

asking what the fuss is all about.

schools because they are more

generously funded seems per-

verse. Easier, surely, to equalise the funding. Opposition on the grounds that GM schools are

undemocratic seems equally odd,

except in the case of those social-

ists who helieve all publicly

funded provision should be

undertaken by one monopoly

supplier, which would destroy all

housing associations and many

The accusation that GM

chools are selective is more dif-

ficult. Many of the schools that

went grant maintained early on had no interest in becoming more

selective. The main stimulus was

the desire for control over their

own resources and irritation at

local authority inefficiency. There

are GM schools that have been

markedly successful in increasing

But, typically for British poli-tics, the debate on how schools

should be organised has been pursued as if there are only two

local involvement and support.

other voluntary organisations.

To argue for abolishing GM

From Mr Neil McIntosh

Education test for new Labour

able to there being a visual gap in the architectural and planning townscape development of the country in 30 or 40 years. Yours faithfully, DAVID MORTON Convenor, Conservation Panel Royal Town Planning Institute London W1 3 October From Ms Rosalind Gill Sir: While working as a housing visitor for Tower Hamlets Coun-

were mistakes, but that is prefer-

people want to live in houses with gardens.

pants would he "no!".

The Victorian slums were

possible points of view. GM sta-

tus, which had attracted the sup-

on the right, was presented by the

teaching unions and local author-

ity bureaucracies as an exclu-

sively right-wing device, a sort of privatisation by stealth. Of

course, many Conservatives did support GM status to permit

selection of pupils and that, con-

pled with the fact that the active

support of this government has

sounded the death knell of many

sound ideas in recent years, has

made the criticisms of the left a

self-fulfilling prophecy. Only

those with a strong ideological drive are likely to be prepared to face the quite ridiculous degree

of opprobrium that a declared

wish to go grant maintained will

under very unusual pressure, I

would be deeply disappointed

by colleagues who criticised me

for sending those children to the

best state school available in that

area. Similarly, if I were the par-

ent of a child at a school which,

If I were likely to be offered a

attract.

port of many people by no means

reviled not for their poor archi-We must face up to the diffi-cult decisions of listing a good tectural merit, but because they lacked basic sanitary amenities. and representative sample of The basic design of the two-storey terraced bouse has post-war buildings now. No doubt, our successors will think endured and continues to be an acceptable model. These are sputhat some of the choices made

architect of Robin Hood Gar-

dens] believes, the building

should remain untouched. That

is cold comfort for its current

occupants, most of whom I sus-

pect are oot able to exercise their choice to live elsewhere. When be says it is "frightfully

hard" to make changes to a build-

ing like this, I suspect he is refer-ring to the aesthetic profile of the

design, rather than relatively sim-

ple improvements such as a

concierge system, which might just make a positive difference to

I am dismayed that architects

like Smithson do not seem to

have learnt the all too obvious

lessons from their mistakes. List

Rohin Hood Gardens? Torching

without changing its pupil intake, had improved hugely since going

GM, I would find it hard to for-

give any political party that risked

destroying what had been

Sir: If new Labour is based on the

democratic principles of com-

munity and social justice and not

just on Marxist dogma, there is no reason why it should not preserve

and develop the Government's Assisted Places Scheme, which

enables bright youngsters whose

parents cannot afford the fees to

There is no community when

This question is the most cru-

cial test of genuine socialist con-

version I can think of.

Yours sincerely,

TREVOS COX

Croydon

only the rich can send their chil-

go to independent schools.

it might be more appropriate!

the lives of the tenants.

Sincerely,

2 October

achieved.

2 October

Yours faithfully,

NEIL MCINTOSH

Chief Executive

Reading, Berkshire

From Mr Trevor Cox

CFBT Education Services

ROSALIND GILL.

London, SE9

rious grounds, therefore, to lead us to believe that in a couple of generations huildings like Robin Hood Gardens will come to be appreciated.
For the benefit of future generations, Peter Smithson [co-

cil, in the early Eighties, I had the dubious pleasure of visiting flats in both Keeling House and Robin Hood Gardens to assess the tenants' housing needs. The overwhelmingly consistent message then, and over the subsequent 15

Surely the best criterioo by which to judge the merits of a building is: does it adequately serve the purpose for which it was built? Clearly, in the case of Rohin Hood Gardens, the resounding answer by its occu-

Marshall Plan for Bosnia From Mr John Pedler

Sir, For over a year now several observers, including myself (Letters, 13 May 1994), have been lobbying for a mini-Marshall Plan for Bosnia, to be offered to both sides in the conflict before a ceasefire as a means of obtaining peace. The donor powers, meeting in Rome on 5 and 6 October, should consider this option.

Until the Croatian and Bosnian offensives io Krajina and north-west Bosoia, the only likely peace effectively involved a division of Bosnia between the Federatioo of Bosnia-Herzegovina and a still armed "Republika Sepska" bent on a subsequent anschluss: with Serbia. Such a peace would be inherently unstable for obvious geographic reasons. It would also reward aggressioo and the policy of "ethnic cleansing".

Now another peace is tanta-Herzegovina with a Serb autonomous region and the prospect of reassimilation of the Serbs, all groups having their security guaranteed by Nato forces.

Peace by diplomacy invariohly reflects military and economic realities. If the international community wants to shorteo the fighting, it should offer its reconstruction hasket to both sides now on the strict conditions that Brian Atwood, head of the US Agency for International Development. spelt out last week: human rights, disarmament, voluntary return of refugees, and normal relations hetween the three countries concerned.

If the extremist Serh leaders refused, as Stalin refused the Marshall Plan, the discontent of large numbers of demoralised Serbs could destabilise them. (As those of us who have visited Republika Srpska know, morale is its Achilles' heel). If they accepted, real peace would have arrived. Let us hope that, at Rome, donors will let money talk now. Yours sincerely.

JOHN PEDLER Opatija, Croatia October

job in Westminster in the near dren to the hest schools; there is Chirac's big risk no social justice if many of the brightest have no access to the future and knew that job would give me minimal time to be with From Dr Christopher Williams my children and would put them best education.

Sir: Further French testing raises a crucial question. How in the future can we prevent a single national leader posing a threat to global security against global democratic will?

Chirac's actions stem from political self-interest, not concern for global safety. Presideot Mitterrand had suspended tests, so they are not imperative. As other nations do oot now need primitive "does it go bang" testing, the main effect on French science is to advertise its inadequacies.

People are not ignorant of the oeed to take risks to improve security, but risk must be shared. The post-Chirac era must be marked by an end to risk-taking that enhances the security of some at the expense of the security of others.

Yours sincerely, CHRISTOPHER WILLIAMS Environmental Victims Project Global Security Programme University of Cambridge Cambridge 2 October

Imperial defence

From Mr C. S. McMenamin Sir. What a confused argument Charles Pyffe (Letters, 4 October) makes against the metric system! He claims that metric is at once too simplistic and too difficult to use, and attempts to induce from the fact that 1,000 cc (1 litre) of pure water weighs Ikg that the centi" litre (1/100th of a litre) and the cubic centimetre should be equal. Fortunately, these arguments (and the majority of others of the same vein being used at the moment) will not stop the rest of this country's population getting on with their daily business, in whatever system of measurement.

The parallels of this change with monetary decimalisation in the early Seventies are many, and just as then it will prove to be a sensible one that makes people's lives easier. In the meantime, may I suggest Mr Fyffe saves his sight and starts to use the centimetre to measure length; it's about two-fifths of an inch. Yours faithfully, CONOR MCMENAMIN

Brighton 4 October

From Mr Michael Smith Sir: I am disappointed with your paper's glib writing off of the imperial weights and measures system ("Drop your feet and use

your fingers," 30 September) and suggestion that no one will regret its passing. This is in marked contrast to your support for another venerable institution, Greenwich Naval College.

While bound to support your campaign on behalf of Greenwich, I do not accept your basic premise that the Imperial system is difficult to use and therefore it should be abolished. I will continue to use the imperial system in my own home whatever the Independent's view of what is - or is not - of cultural and traditional importance. Yours faithfully,

MICHAEL SMITH Ware, Hertfordshire

comment

Egalitarians versus angry parents

The education debate yesterday in Brighton produced a clash between two wholly different worlds

When a conference comes politically alive the result is exhilarating but brutal. From the deep dark heart of Labour's conscience came Roy Hattersley's roar of fury about selective schooling. Drama. Uproar. He was met by an savage counter-attack from David Blunkett. Sensation. We rarely see personal animos-ity so nakedly displayed these days. It was very satisfying.

More than that, though, it was a modest moment of history. Hattersley was speaking for Labour's historical egalitarianism, famously summarised by Tony Crosland's promise to himself to destroy "every fucking grammar school" in the country. Blunkett, though, was speaking as a parent who has two children at a comprehensive school today and knows what followed. And he carried the day.

Comprehensive education matters to Labour more than any other single issue except the NHS. This is partly because the party has so many members who are teachers and lecturers. But it's also because Labour is heavily dominated by middle-class people whose parents are, or were, workingclass and who have risen in life because of free state education.

So the current failures of the comprehensive system, experienced by Labour parents, ton, are a source of real pain to the party. They are rhetorically explained away as entirely the result of Tory meanness and Tory malice, Yesterday, the first speaker on behalf of the party's national executive. Catherine Taylor, offered three classic Labourist propositions on this theme. She told us that vandalism in

Marshall:

for Bushi.

schools was a result of underfunding, that the Government was "trying to wipe out the teaching profession" and that "schools do not fail, but the system does." Wrong, wrong, wrong.
Of course underfunding is real.

Even the current Education Secretary privately admits it. Class sizes are too high, buildings are decaying, valuable teachers redundant. But who believes that more money, and nothing more, would reverse the middle-class flight from comprehensive schools? It is finally becoming permissible, even in the Labour Party, to admit that there's a lot more to say. There are bad teachers, ill-disciplined schools and a lazy

lack of rigour to hlame as well.
It may be that the single great disaster of British post-war education was that comprehensive schooling coin-cided with the fashions for child-centred teaching, mixed-ability classes and other experiments. Some of these may work for some children in some schools with very small classes. But in large mixed schools their results have been mostly hleak and sometimes catastrophic. A schooling revolution which was meant to liberate millions of children ended up by betraying many of them.

Yesterday, Roy Hattersley ignored this. He romanticised comprehensive schooling and, by demonising a few selective schools, missed the point. The trouble isn't that some wicked headmasters are trying to pack their schools with clever children. It is that so many middle-class people are desperately trying to escape from com-prehensive schools - and for very



Columnist of the Year

The Blunkett-Hattersley clash was really between different worlds

For the truth is that if the grant-maintained schools and the scattering of grammar schools were outlawed tomorrow, Britain would still have a two-tier education system.

It is difficult to pin down how many of those parents who can find the money to do so, currently send their children to private schools. According to the OPCS, there are 740,000 children who come from professional, managerial and skilled non-manual households, and 560,000 children in private schools. Some of the first group won't be able to pay private fees; some of the latter will be children from abroad. But this seems to confirm anecdotal evidence that a very large proportion of those who can buy their children out of comprehensives do so. And we haven't even mentioned the large numbers who have bought educational privilege through mort-gages, moving to better areas. The and it is fair enough for Labour to try

middle classes, in short, are leaving.

The real question for supporters of state education is, what might bring them back? The Conservative answer has been "choice". But this looks like a dead-end: for most parents across most of the country, there isn't a real choice. A market in schools, like a market in anything else, requires there to be waste. A supermarket selling 10 kinds of sandwich throws away sandwiches each evening. An educational system offering varieties of school requires surplus places. Yet for sound

ment wants to squeeze out every sur-plus place in the state sector. Unless we are vastly to increase the schools budget or are prepared to allow different mini-schools to co-exist on the same site, and in private homes, or are prepared to use a voucher system, we can forget about choice as the answer to state education. Thus far, Labour has looked at the idea of vouchers, biased in their value to benefit poorer families, but has rejected it

public finance reasons, the Govern-

undergone years of rapid change.

In all this turmoil how much does the future of grant-maintained schools, the subject of Hattersley's revolt, matter? He was right to argue that allowing selection in the state system would finally destroy comprehensive education. You might as well then subsidise private schools and be done with it. Some schools have been sliding towards selection by interviewing parents (something that is

to stop this. But the rest is a side-issue. The Blunkett-Hattersley clash was really between different worlds, different ways of thinking. Hattersley was expressing the anger of an old social-democratic egalitarian and a centraliser. He was speaking ideologically, abstractly, to a party which for decades has been unwilling or unable to confront reality about the failures of state education. "For God's sake, let's stop apologising about comprehensive schools," he said. Oh no? We could do with some apologies, some day, from

Blunkett, by contrast, spoke for the current reality of state education, a world where schools do fail. It is a world in which middle-class parents who stay with comprehensives, like Blunkett and Jack Straw, are the minority and parents like Tony Blair, who don't, are the norm. There's no point bellowing; this is Britain now.

Blunkett wants to redeem state education by a political counter-attack on bad teaching, low standards, poor discipline and failed teaching methods. as ton costly and experimental to impose on schools which have already He wants a cultural revolution, rather than an organisational one. This is a difficult project for politicians to embark on, which involves confrontation with many professionals. I have my doubts about how much can be done. But no one who has heard Blunkett on the subject can doubt his determination to try. The iron has entered his soul about this.

For a fierce argument or a wellmade sentence, there is no politician more valuable than Roy Hattersley, But as an Education Secretary, I'd go for the angry parent any day.

Star-spangled banner of justice

The OJ case has overshadowed America's great commitment to its system of law, says Gary McDowell

L intense scrutiny placed on the criminal justice system of the United States, from debates over the morality of the death penalty to the trial of OJ Simpson. For the most part, commentary has been less than favourable; the acquittal of Mr Simpson now seems to have confirmed the worst suspicions

of a good many people.

It would be foolish to suggest that the system is flawless; thus does it merit two, rather than a rousing three cheers. But it is as good as any, and better than most, and deserves a great deal more respect than t has been getting. The OJ Simpson trial is a

case in point. The combination of the high profile of the defendant, the extraordinary legal defence team his wealth allowed him, the never-hlinking eye of television coverage and. of course, the jury's conclusion after only four hours of deliberation that he was not guilty as charged, has obscured more about the criminal justice sys-tem than it has revealed. The fact is, the system worked pretty well. But it has

heen nearly impossible to see that because of the inordinate attention given to the racial aspects of the case. Throughout the often mind-numbing twists and turns of the process, one had the impression that racism in America was on trial. not a man accused of two

counts of murder.

The scemingly endless delays and procedural detours, the side-bar conferences hetween legal counsel and hydrology and the participants. Judge Lance Ito, and the various motions on this or that minute and arcane point, were a constant source of irritation to most people. Such details got in the way of the big ques-tions: did this rich and famous black man kill his attractive white ex-wife and her male companion or not? Perhaps more important, would a predominantly black jury in racially torn Los Angeles ever

convict such a man? Drama,

caught the attention of a worldwide public. But in truth, it is precisely those mind-numbing twists and turns, the delays and detours and the obscure questions of process that make the American legal system worthy of admiration. It is the commitment to due process of law, even in a case as unusual as that of OJ Simpson, that makes

America shine. The process was such that The writer is director of the lusti-

The past year has seen jailed; he got little, if any, special treatment, returning to his cell every night in shackles and prison garh. The public aspect of the trial itself was such as to ensure no stone was left unturned. And even the most disquicting part of the process - the compelling evidence of the noxious racism of the detective Mark Fuhrman - was found out and brought to bear on his testimony. He may well face criminal charges himself

for perjury. In the end, a jury of American citizens found that there was reasonable doubt as to Simpson's guilt. That is all it takes, or should take, to preclude a verdict of guilty. And that was not necessarily a matter of racism on the part of the jury; not all blacks thought him innocent, nor did all whites

think him guilty. What has been lost in the emotional shuffle surrounding the Simpson spectacle is how, every day, in courthouses across the United States, hundreds of trials work their way to sound conclusions. The routine husiness of the American judicial system is one that consists of a constant attention to a defendant's rights - includ-

Reasonable doubt is all it should take to preclude a verdict of guilty

ing legal counsel being pro-vided, writes of habeas corpus heing issued, and countless other procedural niceties that, in sum, serve to see that justice

Even those cases most horrific to some, those of convicted murderers spending years on death row while endless appeals are undertaken on their behalf, are the result of constitutional protections worthy of any civilised society.

No one would dare to say But it would be hard to think of any other system where one would be likely to do better if arrested for a serious crime than in the United States. Its ahiding dedication to political liberty and the rule of law -however frustrating it may be - assures that. The extraneous issues of the Simpson trial should not be allowed to overshadow that fact.

even with his wealth and fame, nue of United States Souties at Simpson was charged and the University of London.

Labour's technology deal with BT could have unintended and unforeseeable consequences

Wired up to some big questions

Before you allow yourself to become too overwhelmed by the news that if Labour gets in, BT will connect every school and library to the information superhighway for free, ponder three facts. Number one is that Britain is already world leader in one aspect of computer software: somewhere between 30 and 40 per cent of the software of the world's computer games is written here. Number two is that some of the mobile phone companies already offer, "subject to sta-from Bill Bryson's wonderful book on ree connection to their superhighway. And number three is Made in America), the product was that in 1939, when the first television much more successful than the writer sets went on sale in America (the BBC had been broadcasting for years), the New York Times opined that it would never he a serious competitor to radio because "people must sit and keep their eyes glued to the screen; the average American family hasn't time

The point about the first fact is that being computer literate is as much thinking of new games which enable more kids to kill more people on screen in more exciting ways as it is producing a new CD-Rom encyclopaedia on the collapse of Roman

The point about the second fact is that every sensible consumer business wants to get children into the habit of buying its products. BT's plan is much more akin to the sales gimmicks of the mobile phooe people, or for that matter the way in which the soft-drink vending companies get their machines into schools, than it is an altruistic superhighway. I happen to believe that

effort to educate the nation. Far from it: the quid pro quo, that BT can sell services such as movies over its network, will allow it to continue making money in a world where phone calls themselves become virtually free.

And the point about TV in America? It is that history is littered with examples of people being either wildly pessimistic or absurdly optimistic about the take-up of a new technology. In that particular example (taken

expected. But one has only to recall the Eagle children's comic of the Fifties to see the opposite effect. We did get to the moon pretty much on schedule, but space exploration has subsequently ground to a halt. And we still do not all have personal helicopters, jet-packs, or even those natty video phones on which Dan Dare and Digby used to hold their gung-ho conversations. The technology does exist for people to have personal heli-copters – and a few company chairmen do; there are jet-packs - they have provided a spectacular finale for Michael Jackson's concerts; and video phones may at last be coming into their own; but none of these innovations is yet a

commercial success. So the fact that something is technically possible does not necessarily mean it will become a commonplace feature of day-to-day life.

And so it is with the information

One could go in speculative

comparison through all Blair's 14 predecessors. Ren-

toul does not do so, but no

doubt some future biographer

will. Audit of this kind is best

The commonplace that pol-

ities is dirty has never been

made more public than by the

contemporary media. So far as

left until Blair is 70, in 2023.



It is quite possible that the Internet may prove a passing fad, nice for nerds

our lives will be as radically changed by communications technology over the next 30 years as the lives of people were changed by the car between, say, 1950 and 1980. But just as no one foresaw in 1950 the impact the car would have on shopping patterns - the weekly shop at the supermarket instead of the daily trek to greengrocer, butcher and baker - so it is very hard to see the full social consequences of the coming advances in telecommunications.

It is a safe assumption that fixed-link phone calls anywhere in the world will become so cheap that there may not be any point in charging individ-ually for them. We will pay a modest monthly fee to cover all calls anywhere in the world.

We can also assume that the high-

capacity links will carry anything we want them to carry: colonr faxes and video phone links (at last); a movie or a CD-Rom; the latest TV news at the time we choose to see it; junk mail, if that is what we want. I expect, too, that there will be electronic translation services, so that if we wish to talk to a Japanese-speaking friend we will flick the set on to translation and have some sort of conversation.

And maybe on the same system. maybe on a different one, we will have that works, if we want it, anywhere in the world. We will probably have a single number or telecommunications name for life. Never again need we forget a phone number.

But there is a world of difference between what technologies can do and what we want them to do, or rather what we are prepared to pay for them to do. We will self-evidently pay an enormous amount for mobility. Mobile phones have been described, like second marriages, as a triumph of hope over experience, but their takeup is still growing at an astonishing rate. We will pay a lot for entertainment, judging by the experience of pay-TV shows for adults and the video games industry for children.

What is much less clear is whether there is really an enormous market for the goodies that enthusiasts for the superhighway claim. We may want 2,000 TV channels, but we may not. We may want to be able to video shop, but not if it costs a 20 per cent markup. We may want to e-mail all Rabbit's people, plus their PCs, will walk.

relations, but we may not want to read

the replies.

It is almost politically incorrect to say so but it is quite possible that the Internet may prove a passing fad, nice for nerds, and useful for information. like the share price page of a daily paper, but useless for the rest of us.

As for interactive TV, were it possible to deliver a really interactive service, like phone-in radio, the attractions would be enormous. But pretend interactive TV, where you talk to a preteasing instead of satisfying. So giving every child in the land

access to a computer and linking it to a broad-band communications network may simply mean that our children spend more time playing games rather than learning about environmental economics or classical civilisation. If that subsequently means we push our share of the world video games software market up to 60 per cent, then that is a bonus. Indeed, teaching people that trade in services is just as good a way of earning our liv-ing as metal-bashing is admirable. But it may not be what Mr Blair and his colleagues have in mind.

Nor do they fully appreciate what a world of high-capacity, virtually free communications could mean for their own trade. A world where skilled people can live anywhere and deliver their services on screen is one where national politicians are less and less powerful. If they do not perform to best international standards, the good

BOOK REVIEW

Tony Blair by John Rentoul

family and school origins are Dolitics is a dirty business and sketchy by comparison with the Tony Blair is a clean man. treatment of recent parliament-What will happen now that ary and party partisanship, they are put together in the leading to dramatic discussion of destinations which the nation wash of the next general election? And what will happen awaits. Will he be another Attafter that, when a Labour govlee? Or could he be another erament has to follow the mire Lansbury (a possibility nowhere mentioned)? Or could he lose and grime of a post-Tory world? We cannot yet know, hut the election?

John Rentoul makes a brave attempt to answer through a biography in a hurry. His is, I think, a highly competent try, made impressive more hy wit and insight rather than by what Ben Pimlott suggests on the dust cover was "thorough research". It is a distinctively modern insight, with television and radio interviews as the main sources. not academic analyses or fam-

Hence the early chapters on

Through the eye of Tony's needle

Little Brown, £16.95

and Whitehall to a degree unknown since the Napoleonic Wars. But the Labour Party is not much better, and Rentoul's account of Peter Mandelson and the apparatchiks is menacing, even chilling. I am not myself privy to any of this. It only serves to emphasise the torments of Blair as he seeks to

thread his way through the eye of the needle

What is most striking about this side of Rentoul's story is that the path was mostly cleared by Neil Kinnock, ironically an unbeliever, but possessed of immense moral and political courage. Kinnock told me, before John Smith died,

that Blair, above all other colleagues, was the most loyal, the most honest and the most pres-cient in advice to the leader. So what will happen? I can-

not believe Blair will be corrupted by "right-wing" betrayals (despite the siren voices of the electoral middle-ground and the fashionable media, and despite the natural temptation to do one's best for one's own children). Nor will the party be purified (though Kinnock cer-tainly played Hercules in the Augean stables). Nor do I think we shall bear too much about Christian socialism. A successful party must command at least 30 per cent of the electorate and it will have to be persuaded by ethical socialism. Britain is probably ready to accept this broader appeal,

goaded into outrage by political and monetary malpractice. Gordon Brown is a conceivable puritanical chancellor, Frank Field could manage a radical new social security system.

I do not know Blair at all

well, hut we met at dinner recently and discussed the quesnon of who is the second most interesting character in the New Testament. He thought Pontius Pilate. I dismissed his opinion as short-term and political, and suggested that the Good Samaritan (minority group and direct action) would make or break the politics of the 21st century. He promised not to be Pilate. I hope he will find ways of getting the state to make more of its citizens into Samaritans.

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is fighting hard to save Britain's threatened wildlife havens. In the last year alone, we've helped save six nationally-important reserves from needless destruction. Help us keep defending threatened wildlife and fighting for better legal protection for all of Britain's natural heritage. Join us today.

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IN BRIEF

M&A deals set for new record

Gold £ 241.55 -£0.30 248.59 Base Rates --

The value of UK mergers and acquisitions this year is set to hust the previous 1989 record of £47.2bn because of merger mania in the electricity industry. According to the magazine Acquisitions Monthly M&A deals during the first nine months of to-talled £40.3hn, soaring past the £13.7bn for the same period last year, and £25.3hn for the whole of 1994. The value of remaining deals in the electricity sector totals £10bn, the magazine says.

National Power's £2.8bn hid for Southern Electric and Texas

Energy Partners' increased hid for Norweh of £1.74 are just two examples. In contrast the number of deals stayed static at 50 for the first nine months. Lazards topped the table for deals by value at £10.7bn. follwed by Barings, Morgan Stanley, Robert Fleming and NM Rothschild. SG Warhurg topped the table last year but managed only 6 hids worth £2.9bn this time.

'Scotsman' price discouraged bidder

Bill Hughes, chairman of the industrial holding company, Grampian Holdings, and one of the early front-runners to make a bid for the Edinburgh-based Scotsman newspaper group, hint-ed yesterday that his consortium dropped out of the hidding because it felt the asking price was unrealistic.

Scotsman said yesterday that they hoped a deal might be completed by early next month. A number of interested hidders, believed to include Associated Newspapers and the Barclay brothers, owners of The European, are examining the Scotsman's books.

Blair's partnership pledge welcomed

Business leaders welcomed Tony Blair's commitment to new partnerships between a Labour government and industry, following the deal he announced with BT on wiring up schools, hospitals and libraries.

Suspicions linger, page 24

Grampian profits up 19%

Grampian Holdings the Glasgow-based conglomerate pleased the market with a 19 per cent improvement in profits to £4,29m in the six months to 30 June, and the third quarter remains strong in contrast to last year, according to its chairman, Bill Hughes. The contribution from pharmaceuticals fell to £2.6m, but the transport division has been growing strongly to £2.2m.

Investment column, page 25

Watchdog warning on loss of choice

Offer, the electricity watchdog, warned that National Power's proposed takeover of Southern Electric could reduce diversity and choice for customers, and produce a "greater degree of vertical integration" in the privatised electricity industry than has been the case. In a consultation document, the watchdog said it would need to consider whether restraints on the enlarged group and licence amendments would be effective in dealing with potential adverse effects on customers and competition.

Candover backs buyout

Candover said it was backing an £11.5m management buyout of OBS from the British Rail Vendor Unit. Candover Investments had provided £1.5m and the Candover 1994 Fund £5.5m. with the remaining equity being provided by the management. The management team was led by the managing director, Terry Coyle, and directors who had worked within British Rail. John Jarvis would be non-executive chairman of OBS Services.

RPR set to increase offer for Fisons

TOM STEVENSON Deputy City Editor

Rhone Poulenc Rorer was last night putting the finishing touches to a revised and final offer for Fisons. Market sources said a bid of at least 260p a share, valuing the group at more than £1.8bn, would emerge today. Fisons vesterday confirmed its rejection of the existing 240p offer launched in

A recommendation from the Fisons board was hanging in the halance after the British drugs group issued a statement challenging RPR to pay a price that "fully reflects the exceptional strategic value of Fisons' prod-ucts, delivery technology and sales and marketing capability". In the absence of an agreement, RPR is expected to launch a dawn raid to pick up shares in the market.

Last night Stuart Wallis, Fisons' chief executive, said RPR had made no effort to negotiate an agreed nffer since its original offer was rejected. He said Fisons had "a confident and certain future as an independent company" but admitted that the ohstacle to an RPR takeover

was simply one of price. RPR has until tomorrow to revise its hid. Thereafter its nffer cannot be changed unless a third party enters the bid. It is thought unlikely that Fisons

has a white knight up its sieeve. Yesterday, the British drugs group issued a final list of questions it said RPR should answer. They cast doubt on the ability nf RPR, the American arm of France's Rhone Poulenc chemicals and drugs group, to achieve its goal of becoming a major player in the asthma market without huying Fisons. The questions also pointed to

Fisons' European sales and marketing operation. Mr Wal-lis highlighted Fisons' cash pile worth 50p a share, which implied an offer of just 190p a share for the core pharmaceuticals operation.

Fisons' shares closed 2p high-er at 259p yesterday. Trading was relatively light with whispers of today's expected bid only emerging shortly before the

ceeds in taking over Fisons at 260p, shareholders will have

seen their investment more than double since Mr Wallis took over as chief executive in September last year. Having reached a peak of more than 500p they panged to 108p at the beginning of this year after a string of profits warnings and run-ins with the US Food and Drug Administration brought



Stuart Wallis: Only obstacle to RPR deal is one of price

Photograph: Financial Times

CITY & BUSINESS EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER Barings bosses face SFA grilling

JOHN EISENHAMMER Financial Editor

who failed to exercise their re-

sponsibilities in the collapsed

to cover about 12 former exec-

utives from Peter Baring, the ex-

chairman, and Andrew Tuckey.

the ex-deputy chairman, down-

wards. But the main focus is on those such as Peter Norris, the former head of the securities side, and Ron Baker, firmerly

in charge of the derivatives op-erations, who are believed to

have been more directly involved in the running of the

The investigation is helieved

nerchant hank.

the group almost to its knees. After a series of high level res-ignations following the revela-The Securities and Futures Authority is set to interview former tion that profits had been inflated, Mr Wallis had to move executives of Barings, which could result in some being fast to repair Fisons' ravaged balance sheet and reputation. In a bold series of moves he sold banned from working in the Regulatory sources said the the research and development SFA is determined to come down hard on those executives arm to Astra of Sweden for £200m and the loss-making sci-

entific instruments divisions for the same amount. Mr Wallis stands to be handsomely rewarded for the remarkable turnaround. Thanks to the speed with which he patched up Fisons' finances, raising more than analysts ever expected, the company's share price has risen sharply over the past year, taking the value

91 92 93

of share options awarded on his appointment to well over £1m. Coupled with compensation for the loss of his £315,000 a year salary, Mr Wallis could walk away from his year at Fisons with almost £2m. The bid for Fisons is the lat-

est in a string of takeovers in the pharmaceuticals sector over the past two years during which fast increasing pricing pressures and the soaring costs of developing drugs has forced a consolidation of the industry

The Bank of England report into the collapse of Barings under losses of £860m, put the hlame firmly on Nick Leeson's unauthorised derivatives speculation in Singapore as well as the seriously inadequate inter-nal management controls. The SFA's task is now to put the personalities to the management breakdown, detailing precisely who was responsible, or should have been responsible, for specific actions and operations.

The executives had to return to the SFA by Tucsday night, a questionnaire, tailored to each individual, which sought to establish precisely whal the lines of responsibility and reporting were, or were meant to be, at

the old Barings.

The Bank of England report painted a picture of great confusion, with several senior executives claiming they thought each other was looking after particular areas of trading and control. On the basis of the structures revealed in the replies, the SFA is soon to begin talking to the former exec-utives. Of all of them, only Andrew Tuckey is believed still to be working, under some informal arrangement with Barings' corporate finance. All had their registration with the SFA, essential for working in the securities industry in the City, taken away when they were dismissed by ING, the new Dutch owner of Barines. If they re-apply for registration. the SFA has to be convinced they are fit and proper people to work in the securities husi-

Eurotunnel debts may go for equity

RUSSELL HOTTEN

Eurotunnel's bankers are considering converting up to £1bn of debt into equity as a partial solution to the Channel tunnel operator's financial crisis.

The company's 630,000 shareholders have long feared a debt swap, which would dilute the already diminishing value of their investment.

Last month Eurotunnel suspended interest paymeous of £2m a day on junior debt for up to 18 months, a move that took many of the company's 225 banks by surprise.

Now there is a suggestion that the accrued interest of £1.09bn be swapped for equity as a prelude to a more substantial refinancing. "The banks would like an interim solution to stahilise the situation," said a source. "Dealing with the interest first will huy time to or-

ganise a full refinancing later."
Two weeks ago, the Independent learned that the four agent hanks had written to the banking syndicate telling it of the need for shareholders to take more of the pain caused by Eu-

rotunnel's crisis. The clear implication was that the shareholders' investment would have to be diluted. perhaps by a deht for equity swap that could wipe out the val-ue of the shares which are held mainly by French investors.

A Eurotunnel shareholders' action group, based in Paris, recently claimed that about £14bn had been wiped off the value of their holding since the compa-ny weot public. Several analysts believe a

debt far equity swap of up to £3bn is necessary. Gary Klesch, the debt trader, said recently that such a move would be needed by early 1998. A spokesman for the agent

banks - the UK's National Westminster and Midland, Credit Lyonnais and BNP in

MARY FAGAN

hands of "Sid".

Industrial Correspondent

Tomorrow is the final day in the

hattle for control of Chester-

based Manweh by Scottish Pow-

er, and the balance of power

could well lie with the thousands

of private investors who control

about 25 per cent of the regional

This is the first hostile bid for

a major UK utility to reach such a crucial stage and the first in

which there is real power in the

To woo them, Scottish Pow-

er has taken prime-time tele-

vision advertising, including slots during Coronation Street,

France - would not confirm the interest payment debt swap. "We have not fully dismissed any solution or way forward. But nothing has been agreed," he

The urgent need to resolve the company's financing was underlined yesterday when the giant US investment group, Capital, again cut its stake in Eurotunnel to 6.38 per cent. At the end of September Capital reduced its holding to 7.11 per

Meanwhile, figures out yesterday showed that the number of tourists taking cars through the Channel tunnel last month fell compared with the busy holiday month of August, hut freight traffic has increased. Cars travelling on the Folke

stone-Calais Le Shuttle trains totalled 105,914 in September 1995 - a fall of nearly 40,000 on the 145,861 figure for August. But coaches using the shuttles rose from 2,728 in August to 3,033 last month, while the number of Le Shuttle freight lorries increased from 36,517 in August to 38,136 last month, reported Eurotunnel.

The company also said that the number of through freight trains travelling through the tunnel increased from 425 in August to 515 in September. There was also an increase in

the number of Eurostar trains which operate from London's Waterloo station through the tunnel to Paris and Brussels. With frequencies increasing on 24 September, Eurostar ran a total of 862 trains in September,

against 844 in Angust.
At rival P&O, freight truck crossings rose to 55,604 from 46,116, while its equivalent tourist vehicle figure slipped to 136,202 from 185,950. Richard Hannah, analyst at UBS, said Eurotunnel's figures were more or less in line with the market, which is a hit disap-pointing for Eurotunnel really.

Blind Date, the Gladiators and

An army of 200 people at the Bank of Scotland in Edinburgh

has been primed to count an an-

ticipated last-minute surge of

close of the £9.90 offer by the

While the hope is that all small shareholders will suc-

cumh to the £1.1bn deal, pri-

vately it is admitted that a last-

minute stampede could prove

increasingly concerned to win

over Manweb's 110,000 private

a logistical nightmare. Scottish Power has become

acceptances on tomorrow's

The Bill.

Scottish group.

Finance minister calls for Daiwa resignation

RICHARD LLOYD PARRY

Daiwa Bank is considering a sharp cut in its overseas operations, especially in the US, following last week's disclosure of a \$1.1hn bond trading fraud in its New York branch, according to bank sources.

Masayoshi Takemura, the finance minister, yesterday made it clear he expects the resignation of Akira Pujita, Daiwa's president, as a gesture of atonement for the humiliation to Japan's tenth biggest bank The management must take

mura announced, using the traditional formula used to imply resignation. Mr Fujita, who last week said he would be cutting his own pay by 30 per cent, had insisted he would remain in charge "for the time being, until the issue is resolved". Ana-

A \$196m lawsuit launched by

Procter & Gamble against the

Bankers Trust of New York

will spill on to American news-

stands tomorrow when the US

magazine Business Week goes into print with details of the

long-running feud contained

in documents that it had previ-

ously been barred by a court or-

der from publishing.

The magazine had been unable to publish the documents

relating to the lawsuit, obtained

several weeks ago, because they

had been put under seal by a Detroit court. They were un-sealed on Tuesday, prompting the magazine to arrange hiltz

coverage in tomorrow's issue.

The battle already promises

to severely dent the image of

Bankers Trust. It is accused by

Procter & Gamble of mislead-

ing it on the risks involved

The average holding is about 300 shares, which at the cash of-

fer price are worth almost

uals are thought to have taken

small investors, many of whom

also live in its Merseyside and

North Wales territory, will stay

these are valued customers and

have a strong sense of loyalty to

hoth the company and the re-

investors, who control 25 per us." The Scottish camp argues on London, which would have cent of the company's equity. — as do most predators in the a price tag nearer to £2bn.

So far, about 15,000 individ-

confident that the bulk of its cent.

up the offer. But Manweh is taking its stake to 26.2 per

John Roberts, Manweb's close as takeover fever contin-chief executive, said: "Many of ued to grip the City, with spec-

gion. We believe they will back earlier in the week had centred

'Sids' hold key to Manweb bid

£3,000.

on board.

Derivatives feud

spills into print

to losses of \$102m.

Bankers Trust. One apparent-

ly records one employee asking another how they manage to

persuade clients to invest in the

notoriously tricky derivatives

Other details expected to

emerge are the names of eight

other companies hurt by deriv-

atives purchased from Bankers

Trust. They are thought to in-

clude Sandoz AG, Sequa Cor-poration and the Irish-based

If its suit succeeds, Procter &

Gamble could receive treble

damages from Bankers Trust.

Some observers speculated that

the bank may move first, how

ever, to settle out of court with

electricity industry - that the re-

gional issue is overstated. Scottish Power tightened its

grip on the distribution and sup-ply company yesterday, buying

more than 5 million shares and

Manweb's shares fell by Ip to

The bid moved towards its

991p and Scottish Power's rose

. Electricity, worth about £1.7bn,

will be the next to fall. Russours

by 2p to 350.5p.

ulation that

the personal care giant.

Jefferson Smurfit.

lysts predicted he may hold on has been accused by the US reguntil after the publication of re-ulatory authorities of possible viports on the case, in order to take with him as much of the burden of responsibility as possible for the failure to spot the unauthorised bond trading carried out by the chief bond trader in New York, Toshihide Iguchi, over 11 years.

Mr Takemura's statement came as the ministry of finance prepared its own inspection of the bank. Ministry inspectors will today visit Daiwa's head office in Osaka, three days after a similar investigation was announced by the US regulators proper responsibility," Mr Take- in New York. The Bank of Japan will also carry out an investigation, and ministry officials are expected to fly out to New York in the next few days. Asahi Shimbun reported that a second, unnamed Japanese in New York

two month delay between the bank being alerted to the fraud. and the authorities being noti-The latest moves suggest the scale of the embarrassment caused to the Japanese establishment. The Daiwa affair comes at a particularly bad

olation of US law because of the

time for the finance ministry, which is struggling with the bad debt crisis in the Japanese banks. The ministry suffered a scandal of its own last month after a former senior official was found to have made a fortune through questionable investments. Mr Iguchi's activities escaped the notice of two ministry inspections, as well as reviews by the US Federal Reserve. "I regret that the ministry was not capable of spotting the affair," Mr Takemura said. was being investigated for a possible part in the fraud. The Bank

when it sold derivatives to the company, which eventually led The documents obtained by Business Week include transcripts of telephone conversations between employees of

Weetabix

##curver

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tment Column

Market Report

STATE STATE WELL STATE

"Building bridges with the Opposition is always going to be dangerous for a highly

regulated monopoly

- but Sir Iain Vallance has nothing to lose"

No doubt who wins in Labour's deal with BT First Rupert Murdoch, now Sir Iain Vallance of British Telecom. Sucking up to lance of British Telecom. Sucking up to lance of British Telecom. Sucking up to lareas. With luck, BT figures, Britain's lareas but ministers cannot. Think what we could do if we actually had power. Pure politics, nascent cable TV industry will still be insufbusinessmen with entrenched monopoly

positions in fashionable industries - media and communications. Judging by the deal BT has managed to extract from new Labour, it pays dividends. In return for what in truth adds up to little more than a hill of beans, BT has won a very considerable regulatory concession - albeit from a party not yet in power. There is little doubt who has the better half of the deal.

First the concession. For years BT has been lobbying the Government for permission to provide broadcast TV down its telephone lines. Despite some sympathy for BT's position, ministers have resisted this on the grounds that to lift the ban early would be a breach of its agreement with cable TV which has been investing billions in advanced fibre optic networks on the understanding that it had a free field at least until 2002 and possibly longer. What Labour appears to have pledged is that the ban will be progressively phased out from 1997 onwards ending absolutely in all areas in

Though the stock market seemed to be taking a remarkahly sanguine view of it yes-

ficiently developed to pose a serious threat. It will be BT, not cable, that strikes the deals with Mr Murdoch and the other entertainment providers.

very much seems to be the answer. BT is unsurprisingly evasive when it comes to estimating the investment cost of its pledge to provide a broadband communications system to all public institutions in the country but the £15bn figure that Labour has cleyerly managed to palm off on the press has nothing to do with what has actually been promised. £15bn represents the maximum cost of delivering a spanking new fibre optic network to every telephone user in the UK.
BT is a long way from committing to that.
The much more limited "free" network being promised to schools, colleges, libraries and bospitals, would cost no more than £60m, according to industry estimates - an investment which BT might have been expected to make anyway since many of these institutions are high volume telephone users.

This deal is no one way street, however. For Labour it provides a rallying cry that puts the party in the vanguard of all that mumbo terday—cable TV share prices barely moved—this is a breakthrough of considerable commercial importance to BT. Barely more than two years from now, it should, Labour victory allowing, be able to compete on an electricity of allowing a remarkanty sanguard view of the party in the vanguard of all that mumbo in much the same way as the electricity companies now are—as one of the most hated institutions in the land. It was regulation and competition that transformed BT into what is able to say, that we in Opposition can do

some, BT's flirtation with Labour is treachery. BT is the showpiece of the Government's privatisation programme. Without Mrs Thatcher, Sir Iain might well still be a . What does it have to do in return? Not subpostmaster. Sir lain shrugs his shoulders. Building bridges with the Opposition -

helping it win votes - is always going to he dangerous fur a highly regulated monopoly hut the way he sees it, ministers have already punished him as much as they can. He has nothing to lose. As for Labour, that is a different matter.

Certainly the deal with BT points to some basic confusions in its policy towards husiness. Among the privatised utilities, BT seems to enjoy favoured status with Labour. There are all kinds of reasons for this; BT is at the forefront of technology, which is where Labour wants to be, internationally it is highly respected and its standing among customers is considerably higher than more recent privatisations.

But it is also distinguished because it is seen to operate in a competitive environment. Mr Blair himself has made that dis-tinction. It was not that many years ago, however, that BT was being written about in much the same way as the electricity com-

the present market-driven approach to development of the superhighway – but giving even an inch back to BT may not be the

Cavalier behaviour of Deutsche Bank

ittle wonder that the Germans had to look beyond their borders to acquire investment hanking nouse. For judging by the antics of the past few days inside fortress Germany, they have much to learn. The country's higgest ever hostile takeover, for the state-owned Postbank, may be bringing a smile to the face of Deutsche Bank, but it has been met with open-mouthed disbelief among the international investment bank-

ing fratemity.

To recap. Postbank was only recently split from the post office, as was Telekom to prepare for privatisation. However, the politicians appear not to have through through the business implications. For the post office soon found it could not sustain its vast branch network without the revenues provided by the Postbank. The choice was between large-scale closures and political uproar - the public sector union in Germany is powerful - and nabbing back the bank. Deutsche Bank, too, had its agenda. It had

tried to strangle the Posthank at birth by hlocking its hanking licence. It now saw a stressing it has nothin way of laying its hands on the husiness of a this particular deal.

NIC CICUTTI

nior financial watchdog yester-

dustry's entire range.

available, there could be a "dis-

closure dividend" both for in-

response from other regula-

tors last night. One, who refused

to he named, said: "I think he

is trying to placate some of the

insurance companies who have heen lobbying for less controls

of their sales activities. It all seems like a recipe for even

vestors and the industry.

But his com

more navel-gazing.

sweetheart deal in which the post office is going for 40 per cent of Postbank, Deutsche for 20 per cent, Swiss Reinsurance (as hon-orary Germans) taking 15 per cent, and the state holding on, as it has to by law until 1998, to its 25 per cent.

In their haste, however, the bidders have offered a sum of just over DM3bn for the 75 per cent. Salomon Brothers last year valucd Posthank at DM6hn, and Lehman Brothers, the advisers, think it is now worth even more. Unsurprisingly, Postbank is protesting violently, and calling Deutsche a disgrace to banking.

While Britain is engrossed in raging discussions about how, with years of hindsight, taxpayers were sold short in undervalued pritaxpayers were sold short in undervatued practisations, Germans are pulling off the trick of diddling their taxpayers out of DM2-3hn well before the privatisatinn occurs. This must raise questions about the financial competence of the people in charge, which does nothing to instit confidence in the great

Telekom float next year.

But what about Deutsche Bank, and the breathtaking gap between what it says it wants to dn in international markets, and this cavalier, provincial behaviour at home? For an answer one only has to ask Morgen Grenfell. Through the splutters, there is much stressing it has nothing whatsoever to do with

SIB prepares to

simplify rules

IMF warns of renewed turmoil in financial markets. Diane Coyle reports from Washington

Britain 'must not slip' on deficit cut

The International Monetary Fund has downgraded its forecasts for growth in Britain and the other industrial countries this year and next, It also issued a sharp warning yesterday of the risk of more turbulence in the financial markets unless governments improve their economic policies.

Britain is one of the countries it says must not slip on plans to cut the government deficit. "We do not believe the fiscal position in Britain allows room for net tax cuts," said Michael Mussa, the IMF's Economic Counsel-

confirmed that the growth

would be a meagre 0.5 per

startling downgrade in the country's prospects is the yen's

appreciation. It hit a peak of 79.85 against the dollar in April,

hitting exports and sending Japanese manufacturers flock-

ing to expand production in

The IMF estimates that for-

eign currency losses on overseas

investments of \$400bn between

1980 and the present - most

since 1993 - triggered a vicious cycle of the repatriation of

cheaper Asian countries.

The main culprit for this

cent, the same as last year.





from 0.5 per cent growth in 1995

to a 2.2 per cent expansion in

where growth would be 4 to 8

per cent at the same stage of the

There are two particular chal-

lenges identified by the IMF. One is the oeed to take further

action to close or merge insol-

vent financial institutions, al-

though the Fund has welcomed

the public failure of two credit

unions this year - the first since

1926 - as a healthy sign of re-

alism. The other is the need to

continue to deregulate the

economy are not used as effi-

of over-regulation.

cycle in less troubled times.

lor. He also refused to rule out the possibility that hase rates might need to rise again. Although agreeing that the economic slowdown had removed the urgency, he said: "It is too early to make a judgement that short term interest rates have

The IMF, setting the scene for the G7 meeting in Washington

Six months ago the Japanese funds and further yen appreci-economy looked as though it ation, which led to further loss-said the predicted recovery

ble. In its new forecast for rate that this produced has GDP next year could be an un-

Japan, released yesterday, the been successfully reversed since der-estimate. Even so, it will be

Michael Mussa, IMF eco-

nomic counsellor, said yester-

day: "If anything, the dollar is

a little bit on the weak side but

we would not be saying now that there is a serious misalignment

of the type that existed earlier."

The analysis is likely to in-

crease the determination of G7

finance ministers, meeting on

Saturday, to keep the yen close

the Japanese for relaxing both

monetary and fiscal policy. The

newly published IMF forecast

does not take account of the 20

September supplementary Bud-

Mr Mussa also gave credit to

to its present level.

would show some signs of re- es on foreign assets. The huge

covery this year, however fee- misalignment in the exchange

puts Britain firmly in the category of countries needing to improve financial market credibility by bolding a firm line on interest rates and deficit rethis weekend, reckons that most industrial economies will expand more slowly than it en-visaged earlier this year. The British economy is fore-

cast to expand by 2.7 per cent The report says that inflation his year, half a per cent below is unlikely to pick up much in both the Treasury's forecast the industrial countries generand the IMF's own earlier preally. But it says: "Barring diction. Just weeks before the 28 November budget, the IMF warns the Chancellor that efstronger efforts to reduce fiscal deficits than currently envisforts to cut the Government's borrowing requirement must Pessimism on Japan growth not slip. It also says that the cur-

rent pause in growth should not be exaggerated. The US gets the same caution from the IMF's economists. Only evidence of a marked slowdown in economic activity would warrant significant cuts in interest rates. The key issue its forecast of US growth to a

slightly lower 2.9 per cent this year and 2.0 per cent in 1996.

The broadly favourable ecocomic outlook, with reasonable growth and low inflation in most countries, could be in jeopardy if governments do not grasp this nettle. These risks derive partly from policy weaknesses in many industrial countries that may provoke renewed turbulence in financial mareconomy. Resources in the kets," says the report.

It picks out the US, France, ciently as they might be because Italy, Spain and Sweden as countries in urgent need of growth in developing countries



cal deficit. The IMF has revised deficit cuts and in some cases additional labour market reforms. But the IMF argues that the sensitivity of financial markets to inappropriate economic policies - such as excessive hadget deficits or lack of credibility in interest rate setting -

is increasing. The report argues that almost all industrial countries need to tackle excess government deficits. The emphasis needs to be on expenditure cuts, especially spending on pensions and healthcare.

The IMF's forecasts for

The head of Britain's most seproach to regulation. just one company or be prepared to choose from the in-

for American policymakers. IMF supremo Michel Camdessus: In the spotlight

have been revised up since April. The repercussions of the Mexico crisis have been successfully contained, with only Argentina seriously affected. Average growth in the Asian developing countries is likely to ex-ceed more than 8 per cent this year, for the fourth year in a row. Private capital flows to the developing countries have now

Mr Large, who was speaking at the Britannia Caledonian fireturned to a high level, alnancial services lecture in Glasthough financial markets have gow, said the benefits of hecome more selective. financial disclosure were al-

ready apparent in the wholesale markets, including Eurobonds and derivatives. As a result, more overscas firms were

day signalled a move away from choosing to base in the UK. heavy-handed regulation in re-turn for greater information dis-He argued that had more information been available, it closure by companies.

Andrew Large, chairman of might have been possible to forestall recent financial scanthe Securities and Investments dals, including the Barings mer-

chant bank collapse in January. Board, announced a fresh round of talks with the indus-He claimed that long-running try's more junior watchdogs to problems in the retail financial man out a new, simplified apsector had also been caused by companies' unwillingness to He also backed moves to disclose information about their products. "When, sadly, inend the present system, called polarisation, whereby advisers vestors were let down by advisers they were entitled to trust must either sell the products of there was little prospect they would themselves spot something was amiss. I need hardly Mr Large argued that if more tell you what sort of problems financial information were

the industry faces as a result. "Some might accuse me in raising these points again of being too far ahead at a time when addressed. For example, can we realistically alter the regime whilst the pension-transfer issues have yet to he addressed? I acknowledge that is a difficulty. But, we need to start thinking about the future." Phillip Thorpe, chief execu-

tive of Imro, the investment managers' watchdog, said: "Discloure is ... important but its capacity to be the universal panacea, particularly at the retail end, must be in doubt."

IF YOU CAN'T PAY YOUR MORTGAGE, DON'T EXPECT INCOME SUPPORT TO.

At present 70% of people are not entitled to income support for mortgages. For those who are, from 1st October 1995 the Government is cutting back the mortgage allowance paid to them.

and fall ill or are made redundant, you'll receive nothing for the first two months, and then only 50%

mortgage after the 1st October 1995, you won't receive a single penny in support for the first

The problem is most home owners think this doesn't concern them. They accidents come out-of-the-blue. And protection - when in reality only about 20% of them have

This contributes to a staggering 1,000 repossessions a week. And the sad thing is that most are

By taking out a simple mortgage protection plan, you can protect your home from the night-

For the average mortgage holder, peace-ofmind costs about £15 a month. A small price to pay to hold on to your home. Cover lasts for a full twelve months and most home owners are eligible; including the self employed, part-time workers and fixed-term contract workers.

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Lines open Monday to Friday 9am-8pm, Saturday and Sunday 9am-5pm. "According to a recent MORI poll, conducted in August "95. 687 people interviewed

Maxwell cash crisis 'worse than expected'

Kevin Maxwell was told: "No sacred cows" and "cash is now the name of the game" when he called in an accountant to help him deal with the crisis he faced a few days after his fa-ther's death, the Old Bailey fraud trial heard yesterday.
Richard Stone, head of cor-

porate finance at Coopers & Lybrand, said that those were two of the rules he applied when he began working for Kevin Maxwell on 11 November 1991.

Mr Stone said on Day 74 of the trial that he quickly found that the cash situation was worse than he first feared. He warned Kevin Maxwell that he was not prepared to embark on the exercise unless he had the right to report everything to the banks which were worned about their

On 25 November 1991, Mr Stone made a presentation to about 200 bankers who attended a meeting at the Chartered Insurance Hall in the City of London and disclosed that the private side" of the Maxwell group had bank debts of £887m. The banks agreed a "well organised standstill" was the best prospect for them and for the survival of the Maxwell empire. Five days later Mr Stone learned for the first time that the pension funds were in deficit by an

estimated £380m. Mr Ahm Jones QC, defending Kevin Maxwell, said that had Mr Stone checked with Mr Steve Wootten, one of his firm's andit partners, he would have known that Mr Wootten had been looking into the pension sion funds by misuse of investfund situation for about two ments.



Day 74

weeks on the instructions of Kevin Maxwell. Mr Stone said he had not sought information from Coopers & Lybrand's audit partners, who had prepared Maxwell group companies' accounts, because he wanted an independent view of the situa-

hanks on Kevin Maxwell's instructions. By 3 December 1991, when another meeting with the bankers took place, the creditors faced a totally different position because of the "vast" inter- company borrowings which had been revealed, said

tion in making his report to the

Mr Stone He said it was about this time that he was told hy Kevin Maxwell of a possible "white knight" equity investor on 30 November or 1 December 1991. The investor was prepared to inject £400m into the group, Kevin Maxwell told him.

The banks issued a deadline for the end of the week which was not met, the court heard. Kevin and Ian Maxwell, together with ex-Maxwell aide, Larry Trachtenberg, all deny conspiracy to defraud the pen-

FINANCIAL NEWS FROM BANK OF SCOTLAND



Bank of Scotland 1995 Interim Results

	6 months ended 31 August 1995 (unaudited)	6 months ended 31 August 1994 (unaudited)	Year ended 28 February 1995
OPERATING PROFIT BEFORE PROVISIONS	£339.6m	£321.4m	£650.0m
PROFIT BEFORE TAXATION	£261.6m	£213.2m	£449.7m
TOTAL CAPITAL RESOURCES	£3,105m	£2,534m	£2,731m
TOTAL ASSETS	£36,837m	£31,951m	£34,104m
EARNINGS PER ORDINARY STOCK UNIT	12.6p	10.9p	22.3p
DIVIDEND PER ORDINARY STOCK UNIT	2.45p	2.13p	5.82p

- Pre-tax profit £261.6 million up 23 per cent
- Net dividend increased by 15.0 per cent
- o Tier 1 and Total Capital Ratios are 6.6 per cent and 12.0 per cent respectively (February 1995 -6.1 per cent and 11.4 per cent respectively)



For a copy of the Bara's Interins Report please contact: Marketing Services and Public Relations Department, Bark of Scotland, Uberior House, PO Box 12, 61 Grassmarket, Edinburgh EH1 2.If.

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Much Labour industrial policy could fit into Michael Heseltine's White Paper – but suspicions still remain, writes Peter Rodgers

Rail rhetoric overshadows new Labour partnerships

at once in its relationship with husiness. Tony Blair made what at first sight appeared to be a promise to renationalise the railvays and in almost the same breath announced a deal with BT that was hilled as a new initiative in public and private sector partnership.

The former sounded like a return to the old Labour ways, and was made under pressure from unions, the latter was a classic piece of modern Blairism, discarding anti-business rhetoric to do a deal with a private company that would not be out of place among the Conservatives.

In fact neither announcement was quite as dramatic a departure as it appeared. Labour spokesmen have spent much of the last year ducking direct questions about whether they would buy back Railtrack worth at least £2.5bn - after the give a straight answer.

Mr Blair's statement that "there will be a publicly owned and publicly accountable railway system under a Labour gov-ernment" was qualified by a promise not to write blank cbeques, which in itself left considerable doubt over whether Labour would attempt to buy it back in its first term of

Given the scale uf spending that would be involved, the remark was more likely to bave been aimed at wrecking the sale, to ensure the problem would not arise in the first place, which has been a consistent tactic of Labour's front bench. City advisers believe it could just as easily result in Railtrack going for a knock down price.

And what exactly does Mr Blair mean by a railway system? Railtrack owns the rails, but

The Labour Party appeared Tories privatise it. After Mr from the point of view of the credit for the ideas that form the this week to be facing two ways Blair's speech, they have still to passengers, the most visible hasis of Kenneth Clarke's pripart of the railways will be the train operating companies, which are in the process of being franchised out to the private

Since those franchises are

generally of seven years, a Labour government thinking in terms of two full terms could renationalise the system without cost by simply allowing the franchises to expire. In any case, half the franchises may still be in the public sector by the election. In contrast, the rolling stock leasing companies - the roscos - may be sold by Christmas, for up to £1.8bn. New Labour would be unlikely to want to take them back into public ownership. The Roscos fit nicely with another strand of Labour thinking, which is to develop financial partnerships with the private sector.

After all, Labour has claimed

vate finance initiative. Gordon Brown, shadow chancellor, has been fiercely critical of the PFL not because of the principle but because the Treasury has strangled it in red tape and failed to fulfill the original purpose -which was to introduce private finance as an addition to gov-ernment spending rather than a replacement. Indeed, Mr Brown has floated the idea of beefing up the PFI by offering government insurance against

Against that background, industrialists following Labour thinking over the last year will find little to astonish them in the deal with BT announced by Tony Blair. It is the Tory government that has just extracted £300m towards the cost of the Jubilee Line from the new owners of London's Canary Wharf.

some of the potential risks,

such as changes in regulation.



Tony Blair's 'partnership' approach to business is characterised by next week's planned ions with Richard Branson and other business leaders

The thinking is not dissimilar. Mr Blair's plan is to free BT to sell entertainment down its wires in return for investing in communications links to hospitals, schools, colleges and libraries. With the cost to BT likely to be modest, Mr Blair

may end up being criticised for state-owned small business giving away rather a lot for the

Partnerships with industry have become the key theme of

al policy could fit easily into Michael Heseltine's competi-Labour's policy, as it finally buries direct intervention. Gone are last year's ideas such as a

tiveness white papers.
Employers dislike the minimum wage intensely and are

fiercely critical of windfall taxes on the utilities - though the sting has been drawn from that by the way Tory backbenchers have promoted the idea as well. The CBI's opposition to Labour's promises to abandon the opt out from the European social chapter are based not so much on the setting up of works councils but on what Adair Turner, the CBI director general, calls the "blank cheque" the chapter gives for future regulation of the labour market.

As for Labour's wide-ranging plans to reform utility regulation and introduce a new competition authority, little of this is radical in the sense of being outside the debate among experts about how to manage such things. And at the macroeconumie level, business has been been reassured by Mr Blair's commitment to continuing with a tough inflation tar-

As Mr Adair said recently. nobody is disputing the value to business of the basic shift in Labour policy. The real issue for bank. A surprising amount of some business people remains what is left of Labour industria suspicion about whether Mr Blair can deliver it in power - a suspicion which the return to rbetoric about renationalisa-

DAVID HELLIER plan was on track.

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HE RIGHT PEOPLE FOR THE 103

Scholl puts case against shake-up

Scholl, the footwear group besieged by corporate agitators Julian Treger and Brian Myerson, yesterday accused dissident shareholders of secrecy and short-termism as they implored them to vote against resolutions favouring a board shake-up.

To win over shareholder sup-port, the company said its pretax profits for the first eight months of this year were 20% up on the corresponding period last year and that its business

The new chief executive, Colin Brown, formerly with Reckitt and Colman as group director Europe, said: "I intend to accelerate the improvement in Scholl's performance, concentrating on volume growth, inng margins and reductions in fixed costs. This is the best way to maximise value for

Mr Treger and Mr Myerson, and Claudia Perkins of J O Hambro, the finance house whose clients have built up a stake of more than 10cc, have called a meeting for 24 October at which they intend to appoint themselves in place of three non-executive directors and seek buyers for the business.

Mr Treger believes Schul would be hetter off as part of an international group that would benefit from a worklwide marketing and distribution selup. Yesterday he said Scholl's latest riposte did not address the central issue, which was that the company would be better off owned by somebody else.

Scholl said yesterday the proposed appointees have little relevant experience to the company. Nor did it think a forced sale was the way to achieve full value for shareholders.

Scholl's shares moved up 3p to 232p on the announcement.

Lucy Roberts CITY DIARY

Rumours that Tony Blair offered Richard Branson the chance to run a non-profit making version of the lottery have been greatly exaggerat-

Tony Blair has not yet met Richard Branson in a meaningful way, according to a Virgin source. That is unless you include their brief en-counter at Gatwick recently when Branson got to show Blair an acroplane. The visit was part of a tour organised by BAA following a nearby hreakfast meeting with business leaders.

The pair will meet at the end of next week, at Blair's request, to have a much more serious discussion on the economy, competition, and business in general.

Meanwhile at Virgin, an indication of how the group intends to run its newly acquired MGM cinemas

have come to light. Simon Burke, now head of Virgin/Our Price, the retailing joint venture between WH Smith and Virgin, is slated to run the new cinemas as well, importing his hands-on retailing experience to transform the chain. Virgin wants restaurants, game arcades and perhaps even Virgin shops at cinema outlets - in short, a redefinition of the movie-going experience.

The plans go to the WH Smith board, on which Burke sits, in the near future. Smith, which owns the majority of Virgin/Our Price, might even consider invest-ing in the cinema chain, if all goes well with Mr Burke at the belm. Smith, characteristically, declined to comment. Virgin, somewhat uncharacteristically, declined too.

David Hillyard of the Race-course Holdings Trust tells me he is touting for new husiness. He wants to lure students to the race track. "No expense is being spared," he tells me, "bar prices will be at or near student union levels." However



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Technology Minister lan Taylor: calling on BT

Hillyard denies charges of leading students astray. "Student race days are being organised throughout the autumn and spring term," be says. "We have avoided the summer term, because of ex-

It is a rare investor who doesn't think of stock market crashes when October rolls around. But the historical statistician, David Schwartz. tells me that October is not entirely a dead loss. "The truth is actually different," he says, "October prices rise m most years."

However, the next-to-worst day for trading in the year also falls in the month on 9 October, to be exact. The problem, says

Schwartz, is that for all the statistics, no-one actually knows why this happens. October is obviously not a bad time for publishing though. Schwartz has just hrought out the annual edition of his market handbook,

As Tony Blair announced to the rank and file the deal to allow BT into the cable entertainment market in return for linking schools, colleges and hospitals to the information superhighway. Science and Technology Minister Ian Taylor was busy elsewhere: touring the BT stand in Geneva at the Telecom 95 conference. Perhaps BT is just hedging its bets.

Cable operators are having trouble deciding who should be viewing the new Disney Channel being offered as part of the Sky multichannel package. The new service goes to anyone who takes both premium "movie" channels. Sky's satellite customers, whose details are kept in the company's own subcustomers, whose details are kept in the company's own subscription management system, are easy enough to sort out. But some cable subscribers who take Sky's basic programmes package – but not the higher-priced films – have been getting Disney since its weekend launch. A cable industry executive admitted the problem, but said operators were busy sorting it out. Until then, imagine the pleasure of the viewers who are getting something free from Rupert Murdoch.

business

Peter Rodgers

puts case

t shake-u

Is this jobless strategy too good to be true?

Economists are notorious for warning there is no such thing as a free lunch. But this week. Professor Richard Layard, director of the LSE's Centre for Economic Performance, served up a costed plan that would cut long-term unemployment by 400,000 over the term of a parliament, with an eventual annual saving to the Treasury of over £200m. Is it too good to be true?

The plan is a hard-headed view of the effect of benefits on unemptoymeni. In last year's Jobs Study, the OECD drew attention in the link hetween generous entitlements and high unemployment. Professor Layard highlights the link between length of entitlements and duration of unemployment.

In particular, he points to the marked divergence between long-term jnhless rates in Europe and the US. The US does not have a high incidence of long-term unemployment because benefit is cut off within a year. By contrast about half the jobless in Europe - where ben-efits are available for much longer - have been out of work for a year or more. Despite the moves towards a more flexible labour market in the UK, over a third of the current 2.3million claimants have been without a

job for a year or longer. The benefits safety net turns into a trap because the longer someone is out of work, the less likely he or she is to be able to get a job. Demoralisation sets in and employers are reluctant to take on anyone who has been

unemployed for long.

The solution is a mix of carrot and stick that strikes a balance between the harsh American and pampered European approaches. The Government would guarantee a job for six mnnths to anyone who has been on benefit for 12 months. In return that person would have to necept a reason-able offer of work. The benefits currently made to the long-lerm unemployed - £65 a week including housing subsidy - would be paid to employers as an incentive to hire them. The effect of the scheme, sug-



ECONOMIC VIEW

gests Professor Layard, would be to raise the employability of those currently languishing as tong-term unemployed. When the temporary job ended, he or she should stand a better the poverty trap. chance of continuing in that job.

Another questions the poverty trap. or being re-employed else-where. The resulting decline in

long-term unemployment would, in turn, bring savings to the Exchequer. And this decline would not worsen the trade-off between unemployment and milation because the long-term johless exerts very little down-

It makes sense to subsidise work, not inactivity

ward pressure on inflation. The first objection to the plan is that it would create a favoured category that would displace others already in work. The subsidy would lead employers to substitute the formerly long-term unemployed for those already in work.

Professor Layard argues that this concern amounts to the "lump of labour" fallacy, the idea that there is a fixed amount of work that has to be shared out. The effect of his plan would be to expand the employable labour force; employ-

ment would increase in tandem. However, in this year's Employment Report, the OECD said: "It is widely agreed that hiring subsidies for private-sector jobs will generate substan-

tial displacement and substitution effects on employment." If this is the case, then the idea that the plan could be achieved cost-free seems fanciful; the Treasury would foot the hill for employers taking on the new subsidised employees.

PAUL WALLACE Additional costs would also arise if in-work benefits had to be paid to employees - particularly in no-earner households

- to make the job offers spring

Another question-mark concerns the causes of long-term unemployment. It is not clear that employers discriminate against the long-term jobtess simply because of their lack of recent work experience. According to the OECD, unskilled workers who lose their jobs are much more likely to drift into the ranks of the long-term unemployed. Again, further costs seem inevitable in combining the job offers with retraining if the present group of long-term unemployed is not simply to shuffle between tem-

There must also be a doubt about who, in practice, would make the job offers. If privatesector employers did not make a sufficient number of offers maybe because of lack of skills on the part long-term jobless the public sector would have to become the employer of last resort. The scheme would come to be seen as providing makework as well as running counter to attempts to promote efficiency in government.

porary jobs every 18 months.

Yet despite these shortcomings, the general approach set out by Professor Layard is surely to be welcomed. It must make sense to subsidise work rather than inactivity. We cannot afford - socially more than economically - to exclude almost a million people from the labour market. The employment gains may be less than he suggests and the financial costs greater; but the social benefits argue in favour of boldness rather than timidity.

Preventing Long-term Unem-ployment; Employment Policy Institute: 840.

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN Edited by TOM STEVENSON

Hewden catches builders' cold

It really is a measure of the cold the construction industry has caught since the spring when Hewden-Stuart, its leading plant hirer and one of the sector's best run companies, starts sneezing. Yesterday's warning that the problems afflicting its customers had finally caught up with the company can hardly have come as a surprise to the City, but the dawning of reality knocked 9p off its shares, which closed

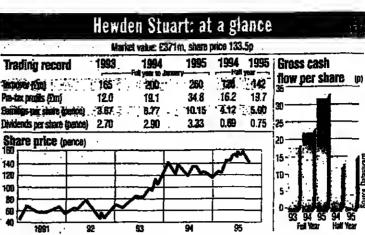
Not that Hewden's interim figures were poor - far from it, a 22 per cent improvement in pre-tax profits in £19.7m in the six months to July was an impressive performance against a backdrop of sagging demand and weakening prices. Earnings per share jumped 21 per cent to 5p, allowing the 49th successive dividend increase since flotation in 1968 - it rose 9 per cent

Achieving that in the circumstances is further testimony, if any were needed, of the quality of its management and the wisdom of ploughing on with a heavy investment programme throughout the recession when others, and ingic, dictated a reining in of expenditure. Hewden has spent more than £200m over the past three years so it can be excused a planned easing off in the second half. The result of that continued programme has been increased market share and, more importantly, the most modern, highly specified fleet in the business.

That said, chairman Sandy Findlay was as candid as ever yesterday about prospects for the rest of the year, sug-gesting only that full year profits will be ahead of last year's. Following a rise in first half profits of a fifth, the implication of a very poor second half is clear and justifies the recent retreat of the shares from their all time high of

One of the reasons the City has kept faith with Hewden, long after abandoning hope with its peers, is that even when trading is tough its cash flow has been strong. During the half, it rose to £42.6m, 15.4p a share and well up on a year ago.

Assuming trading continues poor though the second half, and profits only match last year's £34.8m, the shares now stand on a forward price/earnings multiple of 13. Even after the recent retreat, and with little yield support, that is high enough.



Bank of Scotland causes anxiety

Bank of Scotland disappointed the mar-ket with interims at the bottom of forecasts and the shares closed 7p lower at

Attention focused on squeezed margins and rising costs. Throw in continuing uncertainty about the bank's recent acquisition of Perth-hased BankWest for £437m, and the anxiety was understandahle.

There are certainly plenty of reasons to err on the side of caution.

cent rise in pre-tax profits to £261.6m for the half year to August, this against £213.2m last time, but that was targely based on a fall in debt provision to vided by the interim dividend, up 15 £65.3m from £109.8m. The market had per cent to 2.45 pence per share -

(Q) - Quarterly (F) - Final (f) - Interior

been expecting profits of up to £280m. Worryingly, operating expenses grew 16 per cent to £345m from £296m. Many of these costs, however, were incurred by the Bank's highly successful finance house operation NWS which

is recruiting heavily. Margins were squeezed, going down from 2.8 per cent in the second half of 1994 to 2.6 per cent for the first hatf of 1995.

The Bank has expanded its market share, especially in the mortgage market, hut has been forced to raise much of its funds in the relatively expensive wholesale money markets. That growth Bank of Scotland announced a 23 per in market share led to a 15 per cent improvement in assets from £32bn to

Anntber disappointment was pro-

	COMPA	NY RESULTS	744.5	
	Turnover £	P/fax £	EP\$	Dividend
wetta Reed (I)	36,3m (34,5m)	1.4m (1.8m)	3p (3.9p)	2p (2p)
Bank of Scotland (I)		262m (213m)	12.6p (10.9p)	2.45p (2.13p)
Henheim (I)	92.1m (99.7m)	13.1m (19.2m)	8.4p (10.4p)	3.5p (3.5p)
Surn Stewart (F)	50,4m (40.7m)	3.96m (4.19m)	4.65p (5.2p)	5p (5p)
Global Group (U	54.0m (41,0m)	0.84m (0.72m)	0.42p (0.38p)	0.2p (0.2p)
Frampian Holdings (1)	70.8m (65.8m)	4.29m (3.59m)	4.34p (3.68p)	1.6p (1.7p)
lowden Stuart (1)	142m (128m)	19.7m (16.2m)	5p (4.12p)	0.75p (0.69p)
luxting (1)	566m (559m)	t5.0m (13.5m)	5.9p (4.6p)	4p (4p)
lelit Clerk (1)	1.35m (1,61m)	0.31m (0,12m)	59p (24p)	4p (2p)
KEA Holdings (1)	48.8m (43.0m)	0.66m (0.59m)	3.7p (3.5p)	nil (nil)
inited Industries (I)	32.6m (23,6m)	1.75m (0.56m)	0.63p (0.36p)	0.15p (0.1p)

rather less than the City was hoping for. On the other hand, the payout was covered a healthy four times, more comfortable than Bank of Scotland's peers.

The bank's conservative dividend policy means it will never be much of a yield stock.

The yield stood at 2.4 per cent for

this year, a stingier payout ratto than even its parsimonious rivals. On a price/earnings ratio of 9.4 this year, however, against a sector average of 10, the shares are reasonable value on earnings grounds

Grampian is back where it belongs

Grampian Holdings sits more easily in the Diversified Industrials category where it has returned after two years masquerading as a pharmaceutical. Fortunately for shareholders, the switch is unlikely to change the com-

pany's rating. Grampian has never been in the business of producing pharmaccuticals for people anyway. All its products are strictly for the animals, including new vaccines for cattle with coughs and diarrhoea, which should start to pay back at last next year after a seven year period which cost between £5m in development costs.

For the time being the performance from pharmaceuticals remains slightw disappointing, thanks to licensing delays and now increased material costs and margin pressures in Australia.

For the next year nr two, the star performer will be the transport division which is running a close second to pharmaceuticals in profit contributions this year. Grampian has a useful niche in the disposal of waste from building sites, which should escape the Chancellor's landfill taxes, but the fastest growth is in specialised warehousing where Grampian is set to expand south from its strongholds in Scotland and the north. Its 25 per cent stake in Edinburgh Woollen Mills should provide a useful source of capital if the plan to float it goes ahead next year.

The shares rose 5p to 149p yester day, but analysts are not rushing to raise their forecasts which stay around £10.7m for the full year and £11.8m next for an unexciting prospective price/earnings ratio of 13.

to CITE D

Manweb

Shareholder information update

Manweb's response to ScottishPower's final offer

To hear your Board's advice call 0800 55 66 22 (English language)

0800 55 66 33 (Weish language)

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For further information on Cax & Kings call: 0171 873 5000.

1. To enter our Classic Holidays prize draw you need to collect 5 differently numbered tokens, including one from the Independent on

2 An entry form will be printed on Friday 6 October 1995. The closing date for entries is 23 October 1995.

form send an SAE to: Independent/Classi Holidays Prize Draw, (Token Request OR Entry Form), PO Box 83, Welwyn Garden City, Hentfordshire AL7 1TL State the tokens you require (only 4 per application). If you need tokens or an entry form, please send separate 13 October 1995.

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market report/shares

FT-SE 100 3,544.1+19.9 **FT-SE 250** 3,983.8+15.2 FT-SE 350 1,770.7 +9.2

SEAQ VOLUME 754.2m shares. 28,229 bargains Gilts Index 93.44 +0.19

SHARE SPOTLIGHT

Bid talk and new hopes of rate cut push prices ahead Received speculation about take-over hids outside the electricity sector, and hopes of a further reduction in interest

rates helped share prices push ahead yesterday. The take-over spotlight fell principally on two stocks, Fisons, the pharmaceuticals group, and Clyde Petroleum, the oil and gas ex-

ploration company.

There was strong speculation towards the close of dealings that Rhone Poulenc would today increase its take-over offer for Fisons from 240p a share to between 260p and 270p, valuing the target at more than £1.8bn. Tomorrow is the last opportunity for Rhone to increase its offer

Some dealers believed that Rhone was preparing the ground to raid the market for shares if it failed to secure agreement from Fison's board. Fison's shares finished 2p high-

Trading in Clyde Petroleum's shares was heavy, amid rumours of stake-building either by an unidentified American company or Mooument Oil & Gas. More than 15.5m Clyde shares went through the books, and the price rose 2.5p to 55.5p. A single buyer picked up 5.1m at 54.5p each in early dealings, and was understood to bought a further 2m later in

The closing price makes Clyde worth around £227m, far below the £800m it was valued at five years ago when the shares traded at almost 200p each. One trader said there was a strong chance that several other US companies would buy into North Sea assets following the recent agreed deal by Atlantic Richfield to buy Aran Energy. He suggested that a bid for Clyde could be pitched between 70p and 75p a share. Monumeot, however, is top of the list of favourites



MARKET REPORT JOHN SHEPHERD

to make a strike for Clyde, mainly because it is awash with cash and in a quandary about the best way to give it back to shareholders without incurring a big tax liability.

British Aerospace, tipped as a target for GEC, gained another 2p to 749p. GEC firmed

lp to 330p. Speculation about takeovers not involving utilities is a welcome relief for the market which, despite making millions out of share trading, has become bored with events. Nonetheless, there was talk yesterday that Yorkshire Electricity, ahead 19p to a year's high of 916p would be the next rec to fall prey to a bid.

Scottish Power continued to

buy shares in hid target Man-990p to take its stake to 26.2 per cent. Manweb eased 1p to 991p, while Scottish firmed 2p to 350.5p. Overall, the market continued to march forward in con-

trast to Wall Street which fell again overnight and opeoed softer yesterday. The FT-SE 100 index improved 19.9 points to 3,544.1 and some dealers said that the 3,600 mark could be breached soon.

Trading volume, helped by a large basket trade by Natwest Securities, totalled 754.2 mil-lion shares and was almost equally split between the lead-

ers and second liners, many of material prices, particularly which climbed to all-time highs despite some poor results announcements. The FT-SE 250 index closed 15.2 points at a record 3,983.8.

The disappointing results list included Bank of Scotland, down 7p to 240p, Hew-den Stnart, off 9.5p to a year's low of 133.5p. and Austin Reed, 3p lower at 192p.

Falls, though, were far outnumbered by rises which, to some extent, benefited from a day of activity from upgradings by analysts - particularly at So-ciete Generale Strauss Timbull who recommended clients to buy Vickers, up 17p to 262p, and Pilkington, which closed 9p higher at 209p. Vickers were also in favour at Hoare Govett. The outlook for Lucas, 2p better at 203p, was also changed by Strauss Turnbull

from hold to buy.

Courtantes advanced 15p to 415p on hopes of a fall in raw

TAKING STOCK

A reverse take-over by Blagg, the builders' for wood pulp which has merchant, of Freepages, a climbed steeply over the last 18 competitor to BT'a Talking mooths. The price of Booker Pages service, is almost fell 3p to 390p, however, amid talk of a line of several million signed, sealed and ready to shares being on offer with no takers in sight. Turnover in deliver. Investors, bowever, should not expect a hefty premium to Blagg's current Transport Development Group was extremely high at 33.14 million shares. Price fell 6.5p market price of 23.5p. Talk is that Freepages, headed by former Strauss Turnbuli corporate financier Chris Akers, has agreed on 25p a share. The trading amounted to around 11 per cent of TDG's total issued shares. NatWest

Abacus closed another 27p up ot 275p, prompting a trading statement ahead of the figures. The electronic results for the year to September would be "somewhat" above analysts' ·forecasts of pre-tax profits of between £6.1m and £6.2m.

the broker was having difficulty finding huyers for the stock. RM were in demand and climbed 17p to 349p. The company is a prime supplier of computer systems to schools. and viewed as a main beoefi-There was an unconfirmed ciary of Tony Blan's education proposals should Labour come to power. Similarly, BT added report that Panmure Gordo house broker, was upgrading its expectations to £6.5m.

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MARKET LEADERS: TOP 20 VOLUMES

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Morrison plans to have a brawl

ntil Tommy Morrison was flattened in one round by Michael Bentt almost two years ago the tawdry idea of a Great White Hope lingered in heavyweight boxing. The picture was of a solidly constructed, intelligently directed hlond barnstormer with natural power, Irish blood and John Wayne perched on his family tree.

That the Morrison who is training to fight Lennox Lewis in Atlantic City on Saturday went unrecognised this week by people who had not seen him since the disaster in Tulsa is sufficient to suggest that reality now prevails over the wildness that brought a reputation for re-

lentless party-going.
The golden boy image, created by promoters who deserted when Bentt put paid to the Would end up \$8m (£5.3m) purse Morrison was to receive for a contest against Lewis in March last year, has been so altered by severe barbering and a tuft of beard that he was required to pose for a new set of photographs.

According to Morrison's trainer. Tom Virgets, there is also what he considers to be a significant change in attitude. "I've never had a problem with Tommy in the gym," he said, but I could never be sure what he was getting up to. There was always a distraction, another bimbo to take his mind off boxing and the gap between fights became one long party. Half the time we couldn't find him. Trouble is that Tommy still hasn't found himself and even now some asshole could come along and ruin all the work he has put in for this contest. Tommy not only drinks too much but he simply can't handle alcohol."

If it is unusual for a boxing trainer to be so forthright about his charge, Virgets is some-thing of an exception in the busi-thing of an exception in the busi-29 straight victories fuelled the gets] saw when he watched Lewis more than he's got to offer."

On Saturday Lennox Lewis will climb into the ring to fight a former golden boy trying to live down a tamished image. Ken Jones reports from Atlantic City

ness. An impressively fit man of 43 years he gained a doctorate in exercise physiology and held university posts as an athletic director before working full-time with Morrison.

'It's no exaggeration

to say I've often feared for Tommy's life, that he

dead in some bar'

In the five years they have been together. Virgets has more than once been close to giving up on the fighter from Gravette. Arkansas, especially when re-ceiving reports of yet another spectacular rampage. "It's no exaggeration to say I've often feared for Tommy's life, that he would end up dead in some bar," he added. "No matter how hard I preached, Tommy was deaf to the warning that no man is indestructible and his fists would not be much use if somebody came at him with a gun or a knife. Pleuty of people told me that I was wasting my time and when he lost to Bentt I almost packed

my bags."
A professional since the age of 19, by the time Morrison challenged the 1988 Olympic champion, Ray Mercer, for the World Boxing Organisation tinotion that he might become the first white American since Rocky Marciano to reign as the undisputed champion.

It didn't survive the fifth round. Utterly exhausted, Morrison was stopped when helpless on the ropes. "I'd grown so used to blowing people away that see-ing Mercer still there after taking my best shots left me with nowhere to go," he said this week. "To be honest the referee should have stopped the fight earlier because I took a lot of unnecessary punishment."

While that experience implanted in Morrison an under-standing of serious limitations in technique and stamina it did nothing to curb an appetite for entertainment in the sort of locations that police officers ap-proach wardy. "I don't think I did more drinking than was good for me," Morrison said, "but if I had a bottle in my hand it was always where people could see me. I guess that was the silliest part because guys were always calling me out, looking for trouble. Ever since I was a kid I've been confident of coming out on top in a brawl but the ring is a lot different from a bar. That's been my problem."

It was about three o'clock in the afternoon and Morrison was stripped down for light sparring in a hotel by the Jersey shore. He looked in excellent shape, the re-sults of two months training evident in a hard torso and the clearly defined ridges of his abdomen. He is encouraged by the impression that Lewis is lacking in resolution. "From what I've

fight Frank Bruno, I don't think Morrison's sixth-round knockhe has the balls for this business. out of Donovan "Razor" Rud-I see in him what I saw in some dock three months ago of the footballers I came up against [Morrison was suffiencouraged Virgets to believe that better days lie ahead. "The ciently effective as a high school fifth round has always been a crisis point for Tommy so you can linebacker to be offered a college imagine how I felt when be got up from the floor to get rid of

Ruddock. Not that there is any point in trying to change his style. I think I've managed to make Tommy more relaxed in the ring so that he he doesn't burn up all that energy, but he is what he is, a go-forward guy who is always louking to end things quickly." Morrison's body is not en-

tirely the one he started out with. Football injuries resulted in four leg operations including the total reconstruction of one knee and following the victory over Ruddock he underwent shoulder surgery. "Getting the shoul-der fixed has unquestionably improved Tommy's scope," Vir-

Tennis

JOHN ROBERTS

reports from Glasgow

Britain's top-ranked women's

computer's memory at No 224

in the world, is about to remind

the nation of her existence.

The name is Lizzie Jelfs, and she

will make her debut today

against the United States in the

Due to ber improved form,

and the continuing decline of the

British women's game, the 19-

year-old Jelfs returned to Ban-

bury, Oxfordshire, after reaching the semi-finals of a £75,000

Challenger event in Brazil dur-ing the first week in August and

found herself ranked ahove

everyone else in the country. Re-

alising that this was not entire-

ly her fault, Jelfs sensibly decided

to make the best of it.

Maureen Connolly Trophy.

Jelfs enjoying

the view from

gets insisted. "He's known for the power of his left hook but there is plenty in the right and if it lands Lewis will go.

Photograph: Simon Bruty/Allsport

As for the widespread notion that Morrison is better at knocking people down than getting up, it doesn't figure on Virgets' agenda.



Tommy Morrison prepares to put his best foot forward in Saturday's heavyweight bout against Lennox Lewis

Offiah World Cup blow for England

Rugby League DAVE HADFIELD

England suffered another selback in their preparations for the Centenary World Cup yesterday with the withdrawal of the wingheeled Martin Offiah, who has a calf strain, from both this Saturday's opening match at Wembley and next Wednesday's

The 28-year-old Wigan playcr bad been expected to be fit Australia, and his absence is a significant blow for a team already deprived of Gary Connolly, who has pneumonia.

John Bentley, of Halifax, will replace Offiah on the left wing at Wembley. The England coach, Phil Larder, said: "Martin's a world-class player and it's a terrible blow, but I'm sure John will not let us down." One player certain to play a

is Kris Radlinski. He has been handed one of the high-pressure jobs in world sport - playing full-

sition. The 19-year-old Wigan player, normally a wing or centre, was the first named yesterday in England's team on

Despite his lack of experience in the position, Radlinski is such an assured individual that his coach has no doubts about his ability to cope. "I've got every faith in Kris," Larder said. "Even when we were thinking about the squad weeks son's typically solid display for Halago, Shaun Edwards and others ifax has won him the vote. at Wigan were telling me about

test to start the match at open-side prop. Castleford's Dean Sampson

New Zealand have named

Other young Wiganers have

been given important jobs, with

the 22-year-old Barrie-Jon

Mather in the centre, 20-year-

old Andy Farrell at loose for-

like Radlinski, on the bench.

the senior member of the squad,

Karl Harrison, has won the con-

ward and Simon Haughton, 19

At the other end of the scale,

prises in it than there are in England's. Their most-capped player, Gary Freeman, is pushed out of the scrim-half role by Stacey Jones, Richard Barnett also make his debut on the wing and two British-based players, Henry Paul and Kevin iro, are only on the bench.

Sunday, and there are more sur-

Newtowe (Brastlerd Bulls), Benstley (Halifac); Pow-ell (Feighley), Edwards (Migar, capt); Handsoor (Halifac), Jackston (Shefferd Eagles), Placti (Auckland Warnors), Batts (Auckland Warnors), Plantes (Sheffer)



Radlinski: England debut

ma (Auckland Westions), Joseph (Auckland Wes-nors): Ponglia (Camberra Raiders), Ern (Auckland Westions), Lowele (Sydney Otty Roost-ers), T Tre (Sydney City Roosters), Kennaey (Auckland Westions), Kenna (Leeds), Substi-

to face the world champions, back against Australia - after Lowe enjoys life with the unpredictable Samoans

Traffic on the M6 might have tournament director, Maurice made Graham Lowe the last chief to arrive at the game's great gathering of the clans this week but, typically, he was the man who came up with the

best sound-bite. How on earth would he set about preparing a Western Samoan squad, some of whom had never met each other, let alone played together, for the Centenary World Cup?

Simple, he told the crowd assembled for the official launch of the tournament. They would have a sing-song and a couple of games of tick-and-pass and

Sorry Surrey was never a more

appropriate epithet than now.

slipping, as it does, so slickly off

the longue. A summer of emp-ty promise has spilled over into an autumn of discontent, with

a large group of disaffected sup-

porters successfully petition-ing the club to hold a Special

General Meeting at The Oval

tonight.
Underlying their motion, which instructs the club to draw

up a plan to restore the fortunes

DAVID LLEWELLYN

Lindsay, who once employed Lowe as coach of Wigan, "you'll believe anything."

The dark borses of the tournament will be a little more thoroughly groomed than Lowe admits, but there is an element of truth in his banter.

they would be ready.

"If you believe that," said the which is exactly what Lowe, in

There is just no time to mould a group of players drawn from New Zealand, Australia and England as well as their own islands into anything very complicated or even coherent. There is more than enough time, however, to fire them up by stoking an already fierce national pride

Dave Hadfield meets the rejuvenated coach of the World Cup's dark horses

Discontent at The Oval as sorry Surrey seek change of fortune

Wales next week, will do. It is something of a miracle that Lowe, the former New Zealand, Queensland and Manly coach, as well as the man who began Wigan's decade of dominance, is here at all. A lifethreatening embolism looked to have ended his coaching career four years ago, but Lowe has simply refused to lie down and

play the invalid. Apart from his Samoan commitments, he is due to take over at the North Queensland

their games against France and Cowboys next season, but you

sense that it is working with the islanders that has sharpened his appetite once more. "They phoned me up out of the hlue to see whether I could go over and help them out, and it has been like a breath of fresh air to me," he says. "It has been a humbling ex-

perience to be with them and watch their way of life and the way they go about things. The players have the manners and the humility that you don't often find among modern sportsmen."

As a coach in New Zealand, Lowe was used to dealing with Samoans; they are an important sub-culture within the game there. "I've had a lot to do with Samoans for 40 years. I know their psyche and understand their philosophy of life."

And yet the question of quite how they will perform in the most compelling group of the World Cup remains a tantalising mystery to him, as it is to most other people.

"Anything could happen with these blokes," he says. "They could get wiped out or they could wipe everyone else out. There is so much flair. They do

professional coach from a hard environment, terrify you. But

they work." Éven with players like Va'aiga Tuigamala and John Schuster available, Samoa face a formidable task in taking on France and Wales within three days of each other. "We'll only have time for about three feeds and back out there again," says Lowe. "Mind you, with these hiokes. that's equivalent to about 20 meals with other people."

Throw in a sing-song and a few games of touch football and everything will be set fair for a convalescent coach and his bunch of friendly strangers. As things with the ball which, as a be says, anything could happen.

hardly neutral in the eyes of the

Electoral Reform Society just up

the road from The Oval who re-

wealed that they could have run

the show for £3,150 plus VAT

conciliatory. "If they want it to

be a rough-house we'll let them have it, hut I don't think it will

be. I think we can meet half-

way," he says. He also asserts

that there will be changes in per-

sonnel before the new season -

the most obvious candidate be-

ing the coach, Grahame Clinton.

Soper's tone and mood are

On the way to the Maureen Connolly Trophy 21-and-under team event at the Scotstoun Leisure Centre here, she lost to one compatriot. Julie Pullin, in the first round of a \$25,000 (£16,000) Challenger in China and defeated another, Lucie Ahl, in the final of a Reebok Tour event in Middlesex. The Reebok domestic circuit and the Challenger and Satellite in-ternational tournaments are

the staple for aspiring talent. Jelfs, the 1994 national junior champion, has arrived at an opportune moment. Between this morning and Saturday evening, Britain will attempt to record their first hat-trick in the Maureen Connolly Trophy, a trans-Atlantic competition inaugurated in 1973, 20 years after "Little Mo's" Grand Slam triumph and four years after her death. The Americans bave won 17 of the 22 previous matches.

While any sign of British progress is welcome, a sense of proportion is advisable. The Maureen Connolly Trophy, pre-sented by ADT Auctions, does

the summit not attract the most talented young American players, most of wbom are too busy making their fame and fortune. The current team comprises three collegiate players, ranking from No 387 to player, who jogs the WTA Tour No 730, and two from high school without a ranking. Among

those eligible, but over-quali-

fied, are the highly ranked 19-

year-olds Lindsay Davenport and Chanda Rubin and the inactive 19-year-old Jennifer Capriati (Monica Seles is a month loo old). Britain have selected the top five eligible players: Jelfs, Karen Cross, of Exeter, Devon (245). Ahl, also of Exeter (322), Mandy Wainwright, of Ching-ford, Essex (343) and Kate Warne-Holland, of Stockport, Cheshire (384), who, like Jelfs.

is making her first appearance. Ann Jones, the captain, who presents as optimistic a view of the British game as possible in the circumstances, considers that the situation has "bottomed out and ought to start going up from here".

Always one to respect American teams, Jones expects a "good, strong, solid performance" from her players, and believes the current squad to be "fitter and mentally stronger" than those in the past. "Lizzie's where she is because she's one of the ones who has worked the hardest," she says. "But Lizzie's only just ahead of the pack, and that is creating competition."

Jelfs agrees. "I am only just ahead, and if somebody overtakes me, that will be even more incentive for me to keep going. We're all pushing each other. While I've been practising the last two or three weeks I've heen asked what it's like being No 1. and it still seems a strange question, because I try not to think about it too much. I feel no different, really. I still have the same goal - I want to improve. OK. I'm No 1, but, to keep it in perspective, I'm No 224 in the world, which is nothing really. I still have a long way to go."

of Surrey cricket, to reinstate the Ghost Ryder in the Sky

From K W Exelby Sir: I was extremely disappointed at not being able to follow the progress of our Ryder Cup team battle for victory in the United States. I feel that the

rights to a satellite channel was a mean and selfish act. It displays a very egotistic attitude on behalf of the golfing authorities, who seem to have completely ignored the efforts of

decision to sell the broadcast

ue in membership in south London, is the unspoken fear that the club is more concerned with its status as a Test match ground. Paul Ames, secretary of the Surrey Action Group, which in-

cricket committee and to raise

the level of democracy and val-

stigated the petition, wants to see Surrey succeed on the field. "We are showing them that the membership is not going to accept below-par standards," Ames said. "The aim of this motion is to show the management that they are accountable to the membership for the state of Surrey cricket." Since the petition was drawn up, however, a couple of signif-

the BBC over the years in striving to promote this event and given it such excellent coverage. If my support can so easily be

dispensed with when the team is

playing away, maybe I might not

be so keen to find the time to support them at home. K W EXELBY Lympstone, Devon

Sir. Sport for all! Ruhbish. Is Sky going to have sole rights to

icant changes have taken place, which may well render much of the motion redundant.

Firstly, in the absence through injury of captain Alec Stewart, they discovered a more than adequate stand-in in Adam Hollioake, who hrought some Southern Hemisphere steel to an under-performing side.

Secondly, Brian Downing resigned as chairman on the last day of the season to be succeeded by businessman Mike Soper. Downing, a successful husiness man himself, and chairman of the Test and County Cricket Board's marketing committee, was regarded by the membership as

all major sporting occasions?

The government must legis-late to retain major events for

our main channels. If the licence

fee has to be increased, so be it.

We should be able to watch

The Ryder Cup, the FA Cup,

Wimbledon, the Olympics, Test

Series, Boat Race etc without

baving to buy a channel with

basketball etc. Whether we can

afford it or not.

Yours faithfully

BARRY J BATES

Solihull, West Midlands

Better spent on the "Beeb'

than wasted on the Lottery.

Soper is different. "I am not a miracle worker," he says. Maybe not, but he is a fan. And he promised: "I want us to spend more time with the sup-

having more regard to the in-ternational affairs in SE11.

porters' club, because that is the official voice of the members." He is adamant that whichever way the vote goes it can only be a Pyrthic victory. "I would like to see a lot of those things called for in the motion to be done." There is a problem over the reinstatement of the cricket committee, in that later this

month or early next the Imbert

Report, chaired by former Met-

Sir: As a golfing nutcase, I think

one particular point is worthy

of mention about the Ryder

Cup, which provides the "icing on the icing" so to speak. I know the expenses are very

generous and the endorsements

that follow very lucrative but in

what other sport are you able

to gather together 24 world-

class sportsmen (and two cap-

tains) and put on the sort of

show that we have just been

For the fun of it

From Mr N Todd

SPORTS LETTERS

ropolitan Police Commissioner Sir Peter Imbert, will publish its findings into an investigation into the running of the club and may well make recommendations which encompass the wishes of the recalcitrant members. Surrey's management did not endear themselves to many

members when they announced that the cost of the meeting would be around £15,000. They further dented their claims that they are a democratically run club when it was revealed that the whole issue was going to be overseen by their bankers, auditors and solicitors, all upstanding organisations but

privileged to watch and not have

Players like Faldo, Balles-

teros, Pavin and Couples are

there just because they want to

be. The quality of play, honesty,

friendship and depth of feeling

extends beyond comprehension.

Yours sincerely NICHOLAS TODD

Shirley, Surrey

Play for today

From R L Hammond

to pay the players to play.

and possibly, although probably unfairly, Mike Edwards, the director of cricket. ments by journalists and others suggesting that English sup-porters will not tolerate posses-

non-cerebral all-action game

favoured by Charles Hughes. I'm a Manchester United supporter and after watching the game with Liverpool on Sunday, I must confess, and it hurts to admit it, I could watch the type of possession game Liv-erpool play every week. If they

can do it why can't the rest?
Yours faithfully
R L HAMMOND, Sir: There have been lots of com-Lowestoft, Suffolk

Own goal?

From Ms C Inson sion fontball, preferring the Sir: A successful agent Eric Hall may be, but football punditry

clearly isn't his strong suit. Explaining why freedom of movement for footballers is a good thing, he breezily claims (Another View, 22 September) that if Arsenal were all Italians, French, Israelis and Nigerians, the supporters would still love it as long as they were scoring goals and winning the games. Oh dear, Eric. Don't give up

Even the Prime Minister of Luxembourg knows that the abiding fantasy of Arsenal fans is to win the game without scoring goals. Yours faithfully CAROLINE INSON

Letters should be marked "For publication" and should contain daytime and evening phone numbers. They should be sent to Sports Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL. They may be shortened for reasons of space

Luxembourg

sport

Europe to stage £2m race day

Each November, European racing casts envious glances at the cash-soaked glamour of the Breeders' Cup meeting in the United States, but we may be able to boast a more positive re-

Henry Cecil, whose 14-year

working relationship with Sheikh Mobammed came to a

dramatic conclusion on Tuesday,

has given his first public reac-

tion to the Sheikh's decision to

withdraw his horses from War-

The partnership, one of the

most successful in racing histo-

ry and responsible for 57 Eu-

ropean Pattern wins including

10 Classics, came to an acri-

monious end with the news that the Sheikh will be with-

drawing all 40 horses in his own-

The trainer, attending the

Goffs Sales in Ireland, was ini-

tially reluctant to comment on

the split between the two. Bnt,

ership from Cecil's care.

YORK

2.00 Thracian

enjoy

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3-5

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2.30 Eagle Canyon 3.00 Cyrano's Lad

3.30 Sunday News'N'Echo

GOING: Good 1 Good to Firm in places). STALLS: 51, 51, 71 - stands side; round course - inside. DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low for 51 & 61.

last-named a strong favourite to hold the inaugural event in two years' time. The timing has been carefully chosen, both to allow the meeting to be held, as far as is possible, in good weathsponse from 1997. Europe's er and on a fair surface, while racing authorities yesterday revealed plans for a one-day with the Breeders Cup. Inmeeting each September car-rying at least £2m in prize-tween the two cards, it should money, a festival of the sport in Europe which would become be quite possible for horses to run at both. one of the focal points of the en-Although planning is still at

re Flat season.

an early stage, a statement released yesterday by the Euro-

Cecil relieved by split

the sales, where his wife, Na-

talie, was waiting to drive him away, Cecil said: "I'll just say

one thing. After the last two weeks of what has been written

and read, his decision to take his

horses away is probably the

The hreak up comes after a build up of tension between the

two in recent weeks. The Sheikh

chose the Cecil-trained Mark Of

Esteem to join the exodus to Dubai, following in the boof-

prints of this year's Classic win-

ners Vettori, Moonshell and

Classic Cliche, who were in

Sheikh's Dalham Hall Stud in

Newmarket in the short term,

The 40 horses will stay at the

Cecil's care as juveniles.

hurrying to the rear entrance of but a decision on a permanent

HYPERION

■ Left-hand, U-shaped course, Flat and ideal for the powerful galloper.
■ Course is 1 m S of rity on A1036, York station 1 m. AD\$US\$100%; Course Sand \$16 (16-25 year)colds \$10 jf Thatesaulis \$29; Silver Ring \$4 (OAPs \$2); Course \$2,50 (OAPs \$1), 1 hader 16s free all enclosures, CAR PARTS; \$2, remainder free,

ELEADING TRAINERS WITH KUNNERS; 3 Gooden — 38 winners from 125 runners gives a success ratio of 26.4% and a profit to a 5.1 level stale of 520.10; 2 Gooden — 28 winners, 103 runners, 25.5%; 2 Hannon — 20 winners, 189 runners, 10,0%, 567.51.

ILEADING JOCKEYS: Pat Eddery — 44 winners, 227 rides, 19.4%, 55.06; L Dettarl — 35 winners, 197 rides, 17.3%, +57.52; M Roberto — 35 winners, 207 rides, 16.9%, +530.66; W Carson — 35 winners, 237 rides, 14.3%, -555.38.

BLINKERED FIRST THESE Zahment (winers) (3.30); Mysterious Three (4.00).

BLINKERED FIRST THEE Zalmatent (visored) (3.50); Mysterious Three (4.00).
WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Cyruno's Lad (3.00) won at Newmarkst on Priday; Sommersby (3.50) won at Wolverhompton on Saturday, LONG-DISTANCE BURNERS;
Solathum (5.00) has been sent 271 traites by 80 Pipe from Micholashayne, Devon; Palace Gourd
[1.00] sent 288 rolles by G Euright from Leven, & Sanser, Thraelon (2.00), Western Fame
(3.00) & Samina (4.00) sent 255 inflies by J Dunkop from Arandel, W Stoness.

2.00 BADGER HILL FILLIES CONDITIONS STAKES (CLASS C) £8,000 added 2YO 7f Penalty Value £6,472

FORM GUIDE

John Dunkop's THRACIAN is, beginning to live up to her breeding. A helf-stater to the Calciplaced pair Maysoon and Three Tails, she should do even better over this trip after besting 22 mais in a Nottingham maiden (6f) 1.6 days ago. Thes was her first run since her Goodwood debut two months earlier and Chalemont, second at Nottingham, boosted the form by trotting up at Redcar on Tuesday, Dismalinya is a half-stater to Loyalize, who did her winning over five and six furlongs last year. She has already been beaten by a Dunkop tilly (Nejlyo, who was behind her at Newmarket) at Haydock and Sir Mark Prescotts newcomer Last Section turned her over at Redcar attenwards.

Selection: THRACIAN.

BETTHNR: 4-8 Music Gold, 7-2 Engle Caryon, 5-1 Magic Mail, 5-1 Songsheet, 12-1 Governors Dreum

1994: no corresponding race

FORM GUIDE

SONSSHIEET has a pacety pedigree and at taken to peg back Emma O'Gorman's mount Massic Gold. Rae Guest can produce first-time-out winners and Songaheet comes from the Samity of the top sprinter Song. The feeling is thet Songaheet has been showing enough at hongs to warrant a tit on her debut at this top brack. Music Book has been a bit unfacily on both starts. Slowly away when second to Air Wing at Sandown, he stumbled in the closing stages when leading at Lingfloid next time enabling Alec Stowards newcomer, Angair, to pip him, if the rain changes the ground to anything like soft, Music Book with have an even better chance. Eagle Carryon drops book to tive furlongs after two runs at seven furlongs in received by newcomers in better grade than this. Magic Mail should also be quick, being by Aragon out of a Blue Cashmerr mare, but Governors Drewth has not shown enough to be considered. Selection: SONGSHEET.

61. THRACKAN (10) Gleomonds Start) J Duntop 8 12 222. DIMANDA (USA) (12) (SF) (Stretch Mohernmed) D Loder 8 9 ...

BETTINE: 4-5 Thructan, evenu Diankyu 1994; Taniga Patrol 2 8 10 M Roberts 5-1 (R Hennon) 4 ran

4.00 Jo Mell (nb)

5.00 Step Aloft

the opportunity to stage events of more local interest. Entries from each participating country would be limited in all events, even the handicaps, to allow a broad European representa-

destination has yet to be

Justin Wadham, managing director of Darley Stud Man-agement, said. "The horses

have now come under the con-

trol of the Dalham Hall Stud.

But the decision as to where

they will be sent is one for my

principal to make and not for

me. Our task is to send them

wherever we are instructed to."

One of the favourites to benefit from Cecil's loss is David

Loder, who trained his first

Group One winner for the

Sheikh when Blue Duster took

the Cheveley Park Stakes last

Loder said: "I don't know

Speaking at York yesterday,

Since Ascot's own Festival may struggle to compete with its

isting festivals," Paul Greeves, the British Horseracing Board's Racing Director, said yesterday. The idea of building it on existing days should overcome that problem."

Where possible, current Group One events will be incorporated into the European Racing Day, but the Pattern Committee will also upgrade Group Two or Three contests on a one-off basis where necessary, or introduce new events altogether.

Support for the day will be provided parily by the European Breeders' Fund in an arrangement similar to that which pro-

Breeders' Cup. However, sig-nificant contributions will also be expected from the host courses and a major - and as yet unknown - corporate sponsor if the ambitious target of a £2m prize fund is to be met.

Clearly, much careful thought and planning will be required both before and after the next meeting of the Pattern Committee, in December, which will decide the venue for the first European Racing Day in 1997 (at this stage, Baden-Baden is the likely favourite). In time, though, the continent's racing industry may build a showpiece day of which it can justifiably be proud.

time round. He has bounced

hack in style after being

knocked unconscious in a fall

his mount, Wainwright, at Hay-

dock in August. That left him sidelined for 12 days.

but it's still a great achievement

and a great relief," he said after

reaching the landmark on Sheer

Danzig. "I had the fall but it's the best year of my life. Now I've got the 200 it's a big relief. Let's hope

I can do it again next year."

Dettori ruled out any possi-

lighted to have achieved the 200

"I'm a month later this time

which resulted in the death of

Labour holds its horses over racing

Mark Howe seeks out policies towards the turf from a party in pursuit of power

The spectre of Marx has been haunting Tony Blair's New Labour this week, but in the guise of the brothers rather than the stern apostle of hrnther-

While Lammtarra was taking the Turf's Bastille by storm, the party was taking control of the commanding heights of Brighton's cliff-top course to

stage a day at the races.
The meeting was the culmination of Labour's Rolling Rose programme of events around the country, to take the gospel according to Blair to the mass-

The sun shone and they turned up in their thousands to give the course its higgest attendance for decades at Sunday's fixture, moving the course's marketing director, Roger Easterby, to enthuse that it was the best thing to happen to the Kemptown track since Graham Greene wrote Brighton Rock. What the old fellow traveller would have made of New Labour's travelling road show is anybody's

But while the party has em-braced the politics of the pantechnicon, it could not escape an element of pantomime, as a stage centaur stood sentry outside the members' entrance.

Inside, the political message was muted, although an extremist note was struck by the Channel 4 personality and freemarketeer John McCririck, a Damascene convert to Labour's chances of forming the next gov-

McCririck got into the rosy spirit of the occasion by advising the multitudes to back Lord Huntingdon's Red Light, while reminding his audience: "Some members of the Labour Party want to abolish the House of Lords." A sentiment with which that radical scion of the Huntingdon family, Jack Hastings, whose mural depicting workers' Memorial Library in London,

would have agreed. John Prescott had no more luck with his tips than McCririck. Labour's all-action deputy leader declared that he would not be hacking Naval Gazer in the opener. The David Lodertrained hotpot bolted in.

The modernising mariner is more willing to pronounce on form than the content of policy. The albatross of commitment weighs as heavily on the party when it comes to racing as it does in deliberations on other issues.

Alan Meale, the MP who was the prime mover behind Labour's involvement with the ward racing energetically.

The sport already has a high priority and has been "discussed at leadership level", as the fifth biggest industry in the country, turning over £11 billion a year and employing 150,000

people.
"We took a gamble on holding the meeting, because we be-lieve in racing." Meale says, adding in the flush of Sunday's success, "we would have filled

Labour has been talking earnestly to the British Horseracing Board and the Tote, Meale explains: "We have opened the door to racing before we got into government. We want to help in any way we

The assistance will not extend to providing the Tote panacea some in racing wish to see. Meale envisages a "public-private partnership developing, in

which the Tote will play a leading role." But, he insists, "you can't separate hookmakers from the industry. We're not into sectionalism. We're not pro-bookmaker or anti-bookmaker. We're pro-racing.

Meale's refrain.

But while, come the next election, the Maktoums may not have to quit the country before the last person turns out the light, the Tote chairman, Woodrow Wyatt, should start

The Labour home affairs dustry, George Howarth, says: The Tote has been badly led for

Amid the tensions besetting racing, Labour chose the racegoer-friendly path in staging Sunday's meeting. If it continues along it in government, the party may have to be prepared to resist the pressures of the cor-Brighton meeting, expounds porate razor gangs who want to the party's good intentions to- carve the sport up on their

Runner: Rosscoyne.
Placepot: £18.10. Quadpot: £8.70.
Place 8: £22.89. Place 8: £12.00.

TOWCESTER

2.20:1. TELMAR SYSTEMS (P McLoughin) 7-2: 2. Hallham Tarn 25-1. 4 ran. 4-9
law Big Pat (pulled up). (n. U White). Roba:
53.70. DP. £19.00. CSF: £30.92 Only two
finished. No bid for worder.
2.50: 1. HARWAIIAN YOUTH (D O'Sulfum).
12-8 fars: 2. Justs Robe: 11-4; 3. Aedecon 121.7 ran. 8, 3. IR Rower. Tote: £1.80; £1.30,
£1.80. DF. £1.80. CSF: £4.34. Happack Lad
(5-1) was withdrawn not under orders. Rule
4 apples to all bets, deduct 15p in £.
3.20: 1. STRONG PROMISES (K Gode) 51; 2. Stringsby 4-5 fax; 3. Walting Tail 2-1.

RICHARD EDMONDSON

NAP: Step Aloft

(York 5.00) **NB: Zalament**

(York 3.30)

'Lord Wyatt has failed to develop the potential of pool betting'

"Nobody should be fearful about Labour in racing," is

packing his bags now.

spokesman on the betting insome time. Lord Wyatt, in parpotential of pool betting. But the party has no definite

proposals, even on betting tax, merely seeking "a more level playing field between different forms of betting because of the effect of the lottery," Howarth states.

It is a playing field, however, from which the monopoly bookmakers show every sign of wanting to take their hall home. unless they get their way.

RACING RESULTS 7-4; 2. Magle Bloom 10-11 fox: 3. Peruvian Gate 6-1. 4 ran. 1ye, 9. (K Butey). Toke: £2,70 DF: £1.30. CSF: £3.49. 4.45: 1. STAR OF DAVID U Ryan: 20-1; 2. Porphyrios 4-5 fox: 3. Duramo 9-1. 22 ran. 1/h, 6. (Miss A Embracos). Toke: £49.00; £5.30. £1.00. £2.50. DF: £5.10.0. CSF: £38.66 Tno: £170.60. 5.20: 1. LUGY TUFFY (P Hotel 6-1; 2. Galars Pride 10-11 fox; 3. Britannia Millis 13: 2. 5 ran. y., 1. if Pearcel, Toke: £8.60: £2.50. £1.10. DF: £3.10. CSF: £11.37. Non Rumer: Rosscoyne.

2.00: 1. DASHING BLUE (I. Dettori) 13-2; 2. Might HES 7-4 far; 3. Pharmacy 14-1. 14 ran. 1.4, 3%. (I Baiding, Knigsciera). Date £5.80: £2.10, £1.20, £3.40, DF.£3.70. CSF: £18.37. Iricast: £158.33. Tro: £22.40. CSF: £19.37. Intest: £159.33. The: £22.40.
2.30: 1. MoVING ARROW // Weever) 612. ARR 3-1 fav, 3. Verzen 7-2. 8 ran. 1.
nl. (Mass 5 Hal, Middeham). Totes £9,10:
£2.10. £1.40. £1.80. DF: £23.00. CSF:
£32.46. Theast: £93.76.
3.00: 1. ROYAL DOBE M Roberts) 8-1;
2. Chadroel Hall 12-1; 3. Hare Contes A
Star 9-1; 4. Star Cottinge 16-1. 22 ran. 132 fav Allyana. nd. %2. (Maryn Wane, Rohmondi. fotes £7.40; £2.10. £2.50. £2.30,
£3.30. DF: £41.20. CSF: £97.90. Theast:
£819.44. The: £120.40. Non Runner, Walk
The Bass.

The Bezt, 3.35: 1. SHEER DANZIG (L Detron) 7-2; 2. Sodier's Walk 7 1; 3. Mbuhwa 33-1; 13 ran, 100-30 fav Sweet Nagyonette (4th. 4, 14r. (R Armstrong, Newmarket), Toter £4.00; £1.70, £2.40, £10.60, DF; £11.40, CSF. 29.38. Inexet £674.06. Tro: £699.30.
4.05: 1. PRINCE OF MY HEARY (Pat Enterly 7-4 fav. 2. Inexes 11-4; 3. Northern Soot 14-1, 13 man. 13-6. B HBs. Lambourn, Rote: £2.40; £1.30, £1.30, £3.90. DF: £1.90. CSF. £7.75. Tro: £29.40. NR: Killmessan-Town.

CSF: 27.75. Inc: 129.40. Nic representation.

4.35: 1. BAHAMBAN SUNSHINE (I. Dettor) 6-4; 2. Corradini 5-6; 3. Tethys 6-1. 3 ran. 4, 9. (D Loder, Newmarket). Tete: 12-00. Dir. £1.10. CSF: £2.97.

5.05: 1. VECTORIA REISIA (Pat Edgery) 1-2 lav; 2. Situati 5-1: 3. Lacticasis 20-1. 8 ran. 5, 7. (R Chartton, Bechlamptoni, Totas: £1.50; £1.20, £1.90. Dir. £2.30. CSF: £3.82. Jackpot: £37.265.40 (part won, pool of £21,519.47 to York today).

Placepot: £27.50. Quadpot: £8.00. Place 6: £128.85. Place 5: £58.44.

8 can. 315, 6. IG Hubbarth. Totas: £6.20; £2.30, £1.20. DF: £5.30. CSF: £9.78.
3.55: 1. SQUIRE JIM (M A Fitzgardd) 25-1; 2. Frozen Drop 9-1 It fav; 3. Royal Saxon 7-2.9 rpn. 9-4 It fav 2,3mich. 34, pk. III. Babbagel. Totas: £25.60; £3.50, £1.60, £1.60. DF: £44.90 CSF: £80 42. Treast: £237.60. Tno: £47.40. NR: Denrangton. 4.25: 1. SECRET BID (M P Herley) 11-2. San Glorgio sens tax: 3. Pethagh 20-1. 7 ran. nk, 8. (R Alner). Totas: £10.30; £4.70, £1.20. DF: £6.40. CSF: £11.77
4.55: 1. NO LIGHT (I. Harvey) 5-2 fax; 2. MARKET RASEN

MARKET RASEN
2.10: 1. RELATED SOURD (Ann Stokel)
16-1: 2. Singlesole 6-5 fav; 3. John Tufty
9-4: 5 ran. 1. 9. (M Barractought, Total
527.80: £3.20, £1.20, Dr. £16.50, CSF:
233.40, NR: Bygantes Bil.
2.40: 1. MOOBAKKR (A S Smith) 6-4 fav;
2. Foarfees Wonder 5-1: 3. Rockes Mace 94. 5 ran. 2. 6. (K Morgan), Total
£1.10, £1.90, DF: £5.50, CSF: £8.36,
3.10: 1. PLEASURE TRICK (N Williamson)
15-8 far; 2. Brackenthwalte 13-2; 3. Littie Conter 10-1: 11 ran. 5, 6. (N Tiniter),
Total: £2.40: £1.30, £1.60, £2.80, DF:
£11.10, CSF: £14.76, Tine: £13.60, Non Runner: Swynford Flyer,
2.45: 1. BERTONE (N Williamson) 4-7 fav;
2. Salmes 12-1: 3. Gosty's Myth 9-2-9 ran.
20, 11. (K Braty), Total £1.50: £1.10, £2.10,
£1.40, DF: £5.30, CSF: £8.90, Tine: £5.60,
NRS: Budgaden Castie, Noblely.

Rs: Bulgaden Castle, Noblety. 4.15: 1. OVER THE STREAM (N WIGHISON)

THE INDEPENDENT **Horse Racing** Results 9839 - 111 171 Commentary 0839 - 111 175

RACELINE FULL RESULTS SERVICE 0891-168-161 YORK 101 201 301 W'CANTON 102 202 302 LUDLOW 103 203 333 IRISH 120 220 320

4.55: 1. NO LIGHT (L Harvey) 5-2 tay; 2. Atherton Green 6-1; 3. Banama Cove 11: 2. 8 ran. 2-9; 4. (Mrs.) McKel. Tates: £3.70; £1.90, £2.10, £1.40, £7. £16.20, CSF. £17.46, Tracas: £70.35, Tro: £20.90, NRs.; troe. Erst. 1. achae.

Joys First, Laebas. Piacepot: £88.90. Quadpot: £4.90. Piace 6: £29.00. Piace 5: £4.40.

rotate between the continent's pean Pattern Committee en- when Britain's turn arrives will five principal racing countries: visaged four Group One races be fairly short, probably stretch-Great Britain, France, Ireland, and two handicaps, with indi-Italy and Germany, with the vidual countries also having

> The Pattern Committee referred to the event as the European Racing Day, although a slightly snappier title will no doubt be arrived at in due course. Since it will be scheduled each year to coincide with an existing meeting in the host coun-

ing no further than Ascot, the smartest track in the country, which already stages its own Fes-tival of British Racing in late September each year. Doncaster, which hosts the St Leger. meeting in early September, is another obvious candidate.

new European rival, this seems only fair, although other British tracks - Newmarket and York, for example - may feel aggrieved if they are left out of the

'We'd have to be very care-

ful it didn't act against other ex-**Dettori hits 200** Lanfranco Dettori put the seal on a memorable week when he reached his second successive double century at York yesterday. The 24-year-old Italian, who on Sunday partnered Lammtarra to victory in the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, joins a list comprising only Fred Archer and Sir Gordon Richards as

Cecil: hurried exit

ter speak to the people in The removal of the Sheikh's

horses sparked fears of job cuts among the 70 staff at Warren Place. But a spokeswoman for the stable said. "I wouldn't have thought there would be what's going on. You had bet- any immediate redundancies."

more than once. Tommy Loates, at the end of the last century, and current practitioners in Jason Weaver, Pat Eddery and Michael Roberts are the only others to have notched 200 in a season. Dettori hit the double century on 1 September, also at York,

jockeys to have achieved the feat

bility of beating Sir Gordon Richards's best of 269. "I'm deat York again but I'm not going last season, but injuries and susto talk about records because I pensions have held him up this won't do it this year," he said.

3321 MOSE NO BOUNDS (18) (D) Phongs Record M Johnston 8 9 ...
043 SIX CLEPRIS (47) (Marquesa de Mosesila) J Fiz Gerald 8 6

- 12 deciared
Jürimum weiger: 7st 7th. Due handicap weigers in Perauliaum 7st 5th, The Wed 7st 3th, Scatthebury 7st 2th, Matthem Februs 7st 2th, Matthebury Times Bit 12th.

EETTOWS: 4-1 Jo Med. 3-2 Sawim, 5-1 Alamati, 7-1 Week A-Minste, 15-2 Nove No Bounds, 9-1 Six Clarks, 12-1 Urgent Selft, 14-1 others

1954: In Good Farth 2 7 13 D 9 McCabe 9-2 (J J Quinn) 15 ran

1994: In Good Parth 2 7 13 D 9 McDake 9-2 (J.) Quinn) 15 ran POREM (SILTIDE NOSE) NO BOUNTOS is a juvenila who stays and even Wolverhampton's extended inthe was on the sharp side for him when he won a poor nece less time. His earlier second to Teutan Boy at Southwell suggests he has it to do today in view of Teutan Boy's seventh to Saunium 87 Rodoce for Nose hos Bounds will be very suited by this mile with ris glationer Straight. Samirin, a half-brother to Derby hero Erhaeb, has ned his recent whoring form brosted and, while he wear's totally convicant at Redoce, he could be on the upgrade. He turned over hot security Consortino and, sure to expressible the eath intring and with the fourth Golden Pond warving a nursery at Pentasract on Monday, another good run is expected. Jo Medi followed belo promising runs with an ell-the-way wan from Reinhandt at Ayr trains weeks ago. Reinhandt has been beaten in a week race since but Jo Medi is still a gelding to respect. Alzaked, beaten at Chester last time, is beet with Dane O'Nedi after a Goodwood win from What Quarters but the 8th higher mark may find him out. Weet-A affainte, like Nose No Bounds, has starting to be abound a small race since) and Prantic Demon will get the best out of him. The bottom weights look highly tred, though better is likely from lingeet Swift, a good second to Variature Point (winner since) at Goodwood before tackling the decent flustery won by Evening Chime here. Selections: NOSE NO BOUNDS.

a) and of paragraphic local properties into the brokens								
	4.30 WALMGATE CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS D) £8,000 added Im 2f 85yds Penalty Value £6,160							
	1	051110	MELLOTTE (A) (C) (A) (A) J G Raton) Mrs M Rockey 1097					
	2	3/60550	RAMBO'S HALL (S) (D) (S D=on) J Glows 1090					
	3		WESTERN GENERAL (DS) (Ms. James McAllister) Mass 5 Hall 4 8 11					
	4		HOGH PREMIUM (5) U C Pascost R Folloy 7 8 8					
	5	/360/45	BOLDER COVE (USA) (16) (Linkswood Racing Club) M Meade 5 5 8					
	8	D	BALLYSOMERRY (7) C W Moore) J Parkes 48 5					
	7	155210	COURSE FISHING (30) ID) (5 O Bull 8 McMatton 4 8 6 L Dettor 5					
	8	4040	KARESU (SEED CLO) (LI-Cut W.L. Mordesth) P. Mordesth 48 6					
	5	5525-21	KATY'S LAD (89) (0) (1 W Buster) 8 Moldahon 6 8 6					
	10	222230	ORCE MORE FOR LUCK (LS) (C C Buckley) Mrs M Reveloy 4 5 6					
	11	000500	PENDOLINO (10) Can Bootto M Britain 4 8 8					
	12	1.	PEEP O DAY (\$98) (John L Holdroyd) J.L. Eyre 483					
	13	302200	BOLD TOP (35) (Ars G M Z Sprito B Rotinell 3 B 2					

	5.00	AINSTY MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £8,000 add 2f 85yds Penaity Value £6,108	led 3YO 1m
1	Ð	MODALIAU (28) (Shelkh Ahmed At Maktourn) M Janes 8 0	P Robinson 2
2		MOTRIKABBER (189) (Sheich Ahmed Al Malabum) J Gosden 9 0	
3		PALACE ELARD (Cres Wall) G Erect 80	
4	0-0	SOLATRUM CLITON (Frank A Petrant) M Pige 90	
5	0	TELMO (LTR) U Homescret C Wat 90	O Urbina 5
6	40	ALL THE TIME (180) (Cast J Mecdorald-Buchanani P Cole 8 9	W Curson 5
7	0-53040	ENT ZAMOYEM (16) (Sir Ere Rater) 9 His 8 9	M HEE 7
6	0	SPECK COURT (113) (R Johnson Houghton) R Johnson Houghton 8 9	Pat Eddary 5
9	8422	STEP ALOFT (36) (BP) (The Queen) Lord Huntrigton 8 9	D Herrison 9

9 '5-00 RAMOSA (20) J Wrop 4 11 0 PMcLoughto (2)

— 9 doctored —

BETTHE: 9-4 Star-Pollaidh, 8-1 Carlon, 7-2 Claire-De-Lune, 6-1 Never
Sport, 7-1 Engral Mice, 8-1 Ragosa, 20-1 others

3.40 AXMINSTER FROM AXMINSTER HANDI-CAP CHASE (CLASS D) £6,000 2m 5f

60 brown weight: 10st True handlop weight Romany Owek Srt 120. BETTENC: 11-10 Wise Agrocate, 11-4 Green Inlead, 6-1 Greet Gasto, 7 1 Footbel Drosons, 10-4 Romany Creek, 14-1 Goole Dodger

4,10 SHAFTESBURY NOVICE CLAIMING HUR-DLE (CLASS F) £2,600 added 3YO 2m 121 DOMENNA'S DREAM (19) M Pipe 11 4 _____ D Bridgenter ______ D Salar (5)

ERY HANDICAP) (CLASS C) Value £6,212	7 C-53040 SHT ZAMAYEM (1.6) SF En Parier) 9 His 8 9	
94 M Brok 9 head 93 L Destor 11 op 91 W Carron 1	BETTIVE: 5-4 Step Aloft, 2-1 Motalisabber, 5-1 All The Time, 10-1 Soletium, Blat Zamayem, 12- Brieft Court, 14-1 others 1994: Pencola 3 8 9 R Cochrana 5-1 U Gosdani 8 ran	1
	2 40 HATHERLEIGH MARES MAIDEN HURDL	E
VINCANTON	3.10 HATHERLEIGH MARES MAIDEN HURDLI (CLASS E) £2,800 added 2m 6f	-

3.00 ALLIED DUNBAR RATED HANDICAP (CLASS B) £12,750

LUDLOW HYPERION 2.20 Bungee Jumper 2.50 Kelburns Lad 3.20 Badastan 3.50 STATION EXPRESS (nap) 4.20 Zajira 4.50 Blessed Oilver GOING: Firm. COLUMN: Firm.

Right-hand course. Chose course has sharper bends than hur-

added 7f Penalty Value £7,952

dies CHRINE.

Contre is NW of town off A48, Ladiow station (Hereford - Shrevis-bury line) 2m. ADMISSION: Club 614 (accompanied under-10s free). Thitereally 50: Crurse 55. CAR PARK: Free.

WINDLES IN THE LIBER SEVEN LONG-DETAINS.

LONG-DETAINCE RUNNERS: Aerodynamic (2.50) & Lets Go New
(2.50) and (33) miles by Birs L Jewell from Sutton Valence, Kent. 2.20 LUDFORD NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £2,800 added 2m

2.50 INVERSHIN NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS F) £4,000 added 2m 4f

3.20 RADIO SHROPSHIRE STAYERS HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,500 3m 2f 110yds Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weights: Caucidesione 9st 9tb, Bright Supphire Set 5th, Dottoral Set 2tb. BETTING: 4-8 Budantan, 11-4 Javani, 8-1 Chucidestone, Potteral, 14-1

3.50 SHROPSHIRE STAR SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS G) £2,400 2m 5f 110yds n weight: 10st. True Horniscop weights: Hegatory Sci 12to, Hard To Get BETHIC: 11-4 Golden Marjambe, 7-2 Station Express, 9-2 Green's Sec-ga, 8-2 Throws, 8-1 Hard To Set, 10-1 Gibert, 12-1 Castlericher/Mag, 14-1 Negatory

4.20 OVREVOLL MARES NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,000 edded 2m 1 3-42711 ZARRA (12) (7) P Eodes S 11 12 2 24106F GESNERA (26) J O'SING 7 11 1 2 3 PSFULV FEMBER (450) T George 5 11 0 240000 SAREEL (189) T George 5 11 0 4 declared - 4 decl RETTRIG: 4-7 Zulica, 12-8 Serviera, 15-1 Periorita, 20-1 Sabesi

4.50 RADNOR AMATEUR RIDERS MAIDEN HURDLE (CLASS E) £2,800 added 2m

WINCANTON

2.10 Jaraab 2.40 Bankroll 3.10 Cavina 3.40 Wise Approach 4.10 King Of Canvey Is

GOING: Good to Firm (Firm in places).

Regist-hand, galloping course. Run-to of 200yd.

Course is No of town on B308 i. Templecourbe station (m. AD-MISSIONE Members 312 (Amine Members, 17 to 22 years, 55);
Tattersells \$8; Course (and cars) 14. CAR PARK: Free

255- MEAAB 264 G Laus 4 12 0

12 GOLDAND PERSON MALICIA IN ROCCES OF 1800

— 12 decidend —
Minimum weight 10st. The handicap weights (little Hooligen Set 12th, Mouteacher Set 40, Western Miller & Fewer Hell Set 26.

BETTIME 8-4 Styling's Trait, 7-2 West Hill, 9-2 Perrutino, 8-1 Relations, 8-1 Added Dimension, Jersein, 12-1 Indian Temple, 20-1 others

CHASE (CLASS F) £4,000 3m 1f 110yds

1 33/15-1 8049061 (33 F hohts 6 11 10 6 famor
2 33-12-5 50446 (14) Nog 12 11 7 1 1 httpty
3 1/115-2 90446 (14) Nog 12 11 7 1 1 httpty
3 1/115-2 90446 (14) Nog 12 11 7 1 1 httpty
4 3242-1 PUPPS SING (150 D) 6 Houset 10 10 1 2 5 Corres
5 FOLE-3 DESTILLATION (26 D) 6 Edwards 10 10 1 8 Forton
6 FOLE-7 HE MADE SINK (260 F Houset 10 10 1 1 1 Effect (7)
7 COD43-7 REMAIN CHAITCHE (483) M Pop 10 10 0 D Looky
7 Section - 7 Section - 1 Houset (15 D) Houset (15 D)
BETTING 7-4 Benings, 13-4 When be Lorraine, 5-2 Paper Sinc, 5-1 Soball,
8-1 Distillation, 13-1 Tagmoun Charleng, 5-2 Paper Sinc, 5-1 Soball,
8-1 Distillation, 13-1 Tagmoun Charleng, 5-2 Paper Sinc, 5-1 Soball,

ROBEN ISLAND Pickogn 11 2 6.8 Studies
2215 GREY (1.4 Gillerchyn 11 0 Mr Jl. Licerchyn
1 Kress O'r Cawrey IS (82) I Write 10 12 A P Biccoy
EWEL TRADER REI Level 10 11 0 Gallegrey
PRIS LADS O Burchel 10 9 0 J Burchel 4.40 WINCANTON NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) 52,800 added 2m 6f

calls always of 39 parties always note: 40 parties of all after terms. 1465, 15 Attack Farms, Londo 151 BLB

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None.

CLASS F) £4,000 added 2m 4f

P-111 NEMEY WOOD (16) P Nebbs 10 12 0 . Mr Richard White (7)

51/14 P3 FINAL ACE (26) (50) Mrs A Price 8 11 1 ... J Mognet (7)

51/14 P3 FINAL ACE (26) (50) Mrs A Price 8 11 1 ... J Mognet (7)

0542 FRAMMEK (14) R Hodges 8 10 12 ... R Darwoody

P-2 PP R COLONIAL OFFICE (5) Gallim Richards 9 10 12 ... A Thombon

P-2 PP R COLONIAL OFFICE (5) Gallim Richards 9 10 12 ... A Thombon

P-2 PP R COLONIAL OFFICE (5) Gramm Richards 9 10 12 ... A Thombon

P-2 PP R COLONIAL (150) J O'SCO 5 10 7 ... A Thombon

P-2 PP WAZE (150) J (150) J O'SCO 5 10 7 ... A Thombon

P-2 PP WAZE (150) J (150) J O'SCO 5 10 7 ... A Thombon

P-2 PP WAZE (150) J (150) J O'SCO 5 10 7 ... A Thombon

P-2 PP WAZE (150) J McCornoche 6 10 0 ... J 9 Knownigh

1 (55-470 PUBLIC APPENL (12) J Peacock 6 10 0 ... R Bullion

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1 (55-470 PUBLIC APPENL (12) J Peacock 6 10 0 ... Gary Lyons

1 (55-470 PUBLIC APPENL (12) J Peacock 6 10 0 ... Gary

1994: Carrolle 4 9 2 T Spalle 6-1 (8) Palling 9 am
PORNA GUIDE
WESTERN FAME, has a fine chance efter running so well from a poor draw at Ascot. He is
a typical John Dunlop handicappe, improving once tried in a higher league at Newmorket
hack in July after winning a poor race at Leleoster, Samain proved too good for from at Newmerket but Western Ferce troated up at Newcastha. That was meant a 5th peneity for Ascot,
but it could well have been defied had he been racing with the action on the sands and.
As it was, Western Ferme won the race on the far ade in finishing third to Night Dance and
Decosted Hero and the subsequent winner from the sace was Samah (on Sacutary) – about
a length behind Western Ferme at Ascot when a pound better off compared to Nisamarket.
Western Ferma, again over his optimum trip, had Cysselo's Lad well behind him at Newcastle
and can conform the form on 6th worse terms despite Cyrand's. Lad's subsequent win form
Nebil at Newmarket tax week. Mahahi is the one to beat, the has been pacemising for Behri
in Group races and is better than his run behind Ald (same ownersho) in a Donester hand-icap (Irm) last morth suggests. This ehorer trip will sust Muhab, who is now 7th better off
with Celestial Key (sixth at Donesterl and Peter Walwyris colt tan away with a competitive nursery at Newmarket 1.4 morths ago, Celesual Key faded in the Cerminideshire on Saturdly and needs to improve (only 5th better off) to make up the leavey on the Ascot runwith Western Fame, where he finished 19th, Beerglandes may have to was another day, belang without Pet Eddary and conceders so much weight to an improving three-year-old, while
Hill Nod has 5 tough task, Saleosties: WESTERN FAME.

AGrimum weight (3)c): But 4th. Two handkup weight Emission Exprise Ser 1th. :

EETTINE: 5-2 Western Force, 11-4 Cycano's Led, 4-1 Everglades, 6-1 Va Ned, 7-1 Calestini Key, 6-1 Match, 12-1 offices

1994: Carrotin 4 9 2 T Spoin; 6-1 (8 Palling) 9 can

FORM GUIDE

3.30 El £8,000 added 1m 4f Penelty Value £6,888 INTERNATIONAL FACTORS APPRENTICE HANDICAP (CLASS

4.00 GREEN HOWARDS CUP (NURSE £8,000 added 270 1m Penalty

6113 ALZANTI (15) (RF) (Dire Record Cubi P Cole 9 7... 441 JO MELL (21) IC H Newton Jin (15) M H Sewton's 5331 WEET-A-MINVICE (22) (Ed Westown 130 R Holfred 6331 AMMER (15) (15) P-Invalin Al Nestocum) J Dunio

4.40 Mr Copyforce

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATS: None. LONG-DISTANCE EUNNERS: Carban (3.10) & Simular (4.40) have been sens 174 rules by N Graham Leon Newmarkst, Sulfolk. 2.10 ORCHARD NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS F) £2,600 added 2m

| COLUMN | C

2.40 OAK CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS F) £4,000 3m 1f 110yds



THE ROVER 620ti KEEPS 37 LAND SPEED RECORDS UNDER ITS BONNET. (BUT KEEP IT UNDER YOUR HAT.)

"A rather reserved rocket," was how Dr Jekyll described the Rover 620ti in a Top Gear road test.

Two paragraphs later, he encountered the turbo-charged T16 engine that scooped up a hatful of records during a special 24 hour marathon test.

At which point a certain Mr Hyde took over.

"This Rover is a beast. Honestly."

Tut tut Mr Hyde. "It's a sleek but discrete saloon for those who want to hurry but don't need to shout."

Oh really Doc? "It's got traction control and stonking great 16 inch alloys with Pirelli P-Zero tyres..."

To the joy, no doubt, of psychologists everywhere, the same revealing contradictions appear whenever the 620ti is reviewed.

It possesses an unerring ability to separate the man from the boy.

(For the man, we also include our security coded RDS radio/cassette, vehicle immobiliser and perimetric security system.

Two years' free servicing and warranty* For a free test drive or a brochure phone now on 0345 186 186

For the boy, take a glance at our Silverstone sports leather seats.)

As final proof, we'll conclude with two more road testers' gems from the 620ti's press-cuttings file.

"Subtlety is such an underrated virtue." The good Doctor again.

"It's a scorcher." Guess who?



Foundation

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after 75 minutes against Colom-hia at Wembley last month, is

the obvious choice, but Ven-

ables may opt for one of his two

uncapped newcomers, Gareth Southgate and Steve Stone.

But with Gascoigne - re-

stored to the starting line-up last

month for the first time since

March 1994 - missing again,

England's midfield resources

David Platt and Peter Beard-

sley are also on the injured list;

John Barnes is on compassion-

ate leave; David Batty has been

dropped, while Paul Ince is yet

England may train

rugby's new world

Steve Bale reports

An England player who keeps

his place all season can expect

what amounts to a match fee of

£6,500, and the men of Marlow

are very happy with their match

fees, too: they pay £5 a week without quibble. Neither do

they quibble that their interna-

tional counterparts receive so

"We know the pressures they

face but there's not a single per-

son here who wouldn't swap

places. Our guys put in as much

commitment as they can but

when they roll up in their Fies-

tus it does open their eyes:

"We were already exposed to

and we're not resentful. But

public, if the public had been inpaid they've taken on an almost
paid they've taken on an almost
unapproachable status. I no
turf at the Riverwoods ground.
"They're faster than us and
up and talk to them. They are

South-West Two after having

aspirations have nothing what-

ever to do with professionalism

other than in a figurative sense.

Specifically, they want to de-

The newly professional Eng-land players need be in no than for last season's Grand but Wales yesterday moved al-

Slam decider against Scotland.

The Five Nations matches

against Wales and Ireland in the

new year are also guaranteed to

fill Twickenham, and when the

Navy are added, the RFU's

take over six months will be a

tional A teams, or B teams as

There was a time when na-

they were then known, were Exiles coach, said. "Whoever

Which is what you would ex-

"No one hegrudges them

much while they must give.

on their turf but

are extremely stretched.

Marlow are

happy to pay

their way

ment to what is now becoming an is still an age away.

of club and country produces a what they've got," Dave Vick-nice cootrast. On the one hand, ers, the Marlow captain, said.

tcam, it is no different in prac- tas and see Victor [Ubogu]

tice today from how it was coming along in his yellow Lo-

On Tuesday England trained the contrast before they went

behind closed doors because of professional, so we're used to it

Monday Marlow had trained -in since they've moved to being

ence," Steve Blake, Marlow's pect of professionals, and any-grandly titled chairman of com-way Marlow's practical

land players need be in no than for last season's Grand

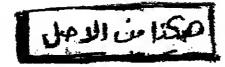
hall Union's capacity to pay their wages after yesterday's Even the pre-Christmas West-ern Samoa match will hring in

disclosure that next month's £1.7m and is itself almost sold

The ail-scated 74,000 who will attend the match, which is Cup final, London v Samoa,

sold out, is 2,000 more than Middlesex Sevens and Army v

don't drop the ball; apart from a very élite group.



to be recalled after pulling out manager, who also lost striker of the Umbro Cup squad for Ally McCoist against Mother-

personal reasons.

on 18 October.

Venables will delay a decision

on calling up a replacement, say-ing: "Most likely I will wait un-

til tonight's games are out of the

way and then clear up any squad

rebuilding tomorrow before the

Gascoigne's injury is expect-ed to sideline him for at least a

fortnight, putting him in doubt for Rangers' Champions

League match against Juventus

velop their already well-en-

dowed ground in conjunction

with a five-year campaign to

reach the giddy heights of Na-tional League Five South.

two points docked for madver-

tently fielding an unregistered

player), in effect the eighth di-

vision, this would require pro-

motion three times in five years.

while this is going on is not one

that crosses the minds of those

most as far from that concept

as possible when 12 interna-

tionals were among those

picked to play the Fijians when

Kevin Gallagher has had

surgery to stop internal bleed-

ing II days after a punch gave

him a broken nose and cheek-

bone and a ruptured vein in the

Courage Second Division

match against Waterloo. "This is the worst incident I have

heard about in the whole of my

career," Clive Woodward, the

The notion of paying players

Walter Smith, the Rangers

rest of the players gather."

Football

Terry Venables is facing a se-lection dilemma following Paul

Gascoigne's withdrawal from

the England squad for next

Wednesday's friendly in Norway. Gascoigne pulled out of the

squad yesterday after straining

a thigh muscle in Rangers' 2-I

win over Motherwell on Tues-

day, leaving the England coach

short of an experienced re-

Newcastle's Robert Lee, who

was substituted for Gascoigne

ngland's players have begin training again, the frequency of their meetings at

Marlow evidence of an appro-priately professional commit-

officially professional game.

Marlow, incidentally, is

where a deflated Dennis Eas-

by, then Rugby Football Union

president, announced the rein-

statement of Will Carling last

May at the conclusion of the

"old farts" affair. Carling and

company will converge on

Buckinghamshire about once a

fortnight, play half a dozen Tests, and be paid up to £40,000

In this case the juxtaposition

we have the evidence of how

rugby has changed - but only for

the few chosen by the England selectors. On the other, if Eng-

lish rugby means the game as a

whole rather than the England

when England first came to

the kerfuffle over Carling. On

that, there's not a lot of differ-

munications, said, Blake plays

scrum-half, and occasionally

hooker, in the third XV so he

doubt about the Rugby Foot-

developed Twickenham will

break records for attendance

and receipts. writes Steve

used to be the capacity when

most spectators stood, and

14.000 more than last season's

maximum while work pro-

reded on the West Stand.

Bross takings from the match

Suuth Africa match at the re- out already.

may have been joking.

Marlow last year.

for their season's work.

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apercar theft $m_i K_i +$ 184 20 914 lug pellet poiscie 414 Adres ---糖和 William 1

piciers. Section 1 J. Oak Ca. 14 hooting error 20.00. 25 Europe .

fres .

Contract to the second 建筑 网络人名 MARKET POWERED mait: : are est f.

abter! tippl f sy fort the New 134 19 to 10 **16** cHarry.



Montgomerie looks to stay on top

From his position on top of the two years.

European money list, Colin Montgomeric said yesterday that his game has improved by up in 30 per cent over the past However, the Scot feels he

may have to move up yet another gear to thwart Sam Torrance and Bernhard Langer and finish at the head of the Volvo Order of Merit for the third successive year. Preparing for the Mercedes

German Masters, which starts in Berlin today, Montgomerie week. said: "Two years ago I was £50,000 behind Nick Faldo going into the Valderrama Masters, the last tournament of the counting the Ryder Cup and I'm

Mirgel Indurain, of Spain, five

yesterday, sweeping to victory in the road time trial at the World

Championships in Colombia.

European No 1 for the first "But I've set my heart on being time. Since then I've got better and better. Last year at Valderrama I was so far ahead in the money I only had to hit the first hall off the tee and I was No 1 again.

"Now, with just this tournameot and Valderrama to come, I have to beat off the challenge of Sam Torrance and Bernhard Langer to stay at the top. Montgomerie is £980 ahead of Torrance and £128,687 clear of Langer, who moved back into the frame by winning the Eu-

"Originally I didn't intend to play in Berlin because this will be my seventh straight week

the Colombian Andes in 55 min

30.4sec. He finished nearly 50

seconds of his nearest rival,

compatriot Ahraham Olano,

56:19.1. Germany's Uwe Peschel

It was quickly clear that In-

was third in 57:33.9.

No I again so I shall play the last two counting tournaments plus the World Match Play and Dunhill Cup - and then have a 10-week holiday." His wife, Eimear, is expecting their second child in January.

Torrance believes that Langer will be a big threat in Berlin. "Bernhard always plays well in his own country and, after last week, there is no knowing what he might do." he said. "I only finished joint 24th last week but in a way it was a relief not to he in contention. I think it refreshed me, and this week could be my turn."

Langer said: "It looks like the No I spot will be between Monty and Sam because I have to scason, and I won it and finished very tired," Mootgomerie said. win here to stay in the race."

Indurain conquers the Andes 24:21.0, compared to Olano's 25:24.7. Despite his success in long events, the closest Indurain had come to a world ti-France, won his first world title who finished the course in the was in 1993, when he was

The time trial was introduced at the World Championships durain, who started last, would only last year, when it was won kilometre course from Paipa to win the race comfortably as he by Britain's Chris Boardman, Tunja through the mountains of completed the first 21km in who is currently injured.

they respond to treatment." McCoist, who was named in Scotland's squad fur next week's friendly in Sweden, is expected to withdraw from the national side, while Gary McAllister is also doubtful for the trip to Stock-

Venables must cope without Gascoigne

well with a groin strain, is hope-

ful both will be fit to face the

Italian champions. "The club

doctor has said that both could

be out for two weeks and that

would obviously take us up to

the Juventus match," he said.

But we will wait and see how

hoim, after picking up a knock in Leeds Coca-Cola Cup victory at Notis County on Thesday. Roy Keane looks certain to

miss the Republic of Ireland's Group Six European Championship qualifier against Latvia in Dublin next Wednesday. The Manchester United midfielder played only 37 minutes of Thes-day's Coca-Cola Cup second leg at York after being relegated to substitute with a suspected recurreoce of hernia trouble.

United feared Keane would need a similar operation to the one he noderwent during the confirmed that Keane only had a stomach strain - ruling him out for around two weeks.

"I put Roy on the bench purely as a safeguard, but I had to hring him on. However, he is clearly going to need some time with this," Alex Ferguson. the United manager, said. "I would think he is a doubt for Ireland. We will really have to monitor it, but he's struggling."

Keane will be the second
United player to pull out of Jack Charlton's squad if Ferguson's intuition is correct, following the

it with him." Ferguson said. "We are sympathetic to them in this particular instance because it's such an important game for Ireland. We would want to assist them in every way we can."

Keanc will probably miss the
Manchester derby at Old Trafford on 14 October and the trip

knee trouble. "I will speak to

Jackie Charlton and go through

to Chelsea the following week, although United are hopeful he will be available for Bryan Robson's return to Old Trafford with Middlesbrough on 28 October.

Ball not ready to renounce Rösler

sport

GUY HODGSON

Manchester City, who need to sell players before they can buy the bottom of the Premiership, have resisted an offer for their most marketable asset, Uwe

Rüsler. Sheffield Wednesday had a bid for the German striker rejected yesterday, although the reaction at Maine Road hinted that the subject might not be

wholly closed.
"The approach from Wednesday was turned down flat," Alan Ball, the City manager, said. "I've told them there is no chance of him leaving... at least for the time being." Everton are also reported to be interested in Rösler, who has said he wishes to stay with City but who has yet to sign an improved con-tract. He also criticised Ball's tactics last week, saying too much emphasis was being placed on defence.

City's neighbours United. meanwhile, are showing no inclination to rush to the market as a reaction to their being knocked out of the Uefa and Coca-Cola cups in eight days.

Their manager, Alex Fergu-son, has attempted to sign Tottenham's Darren Anderton and Ajax's Marc Overmars but rejections there have led to circumspection, even though the club announced annual profits of £20m on Monday.

We've always known we've had the money." Ferguson said, The financial results don't change anything. We've tried for one or two players but nothing has emerged since that has interested us. In one way going out of the cups eases the situation. With just League games to concentrate on until the New Year there isn't the same drain on resources."

Celtic have signed the versatile Dunfermline Athletic youngster. Jackie McNamara, for £600,000. The Fife cluh are £3.5m in debt and agreed to sell after receiving an in-creased offer.

Celtic are to impose strict restrictions oo supporters travelling to France for their European Cup-Winners' Cup second round, first leg match with Paris St Germain in an attempt to minimise the risk of disorder. Only season-ticket holders and corporate clients will be eligible for tickets for the 19 October match.

Joey Beauchamp has rejoined Oxford United, 16 months after joining West Ham in a £1m deal. The 24-year-old was unable to settle at Upton Park and was transferred to Swindon for £800,000 a few weeks later without playing a game. He returned to Oxford vesterday for a fee of £300,000.

if Marlow officials are wonderwon one cap against Romania in 1989 and realises regretfully and for us to pay players would require a steady, certain income we don't have at present." ing if and when their amateur that he was born too soon, "It's club may have to consider a modest step towards professionalism. Marlow RFC costs around interesting that one per cent of £70,000 a year to run, roughly two "We are ambitious and we the playing population effectively will need at some point to ac-England players' contracts. The dictates the rules to the other 99 club has five pitches, a superb commodate players financially," per cent ... but it's still a shame doubt if there's a higger club in Thames side location, and was re- Blake said. "I wouldn't have a I missed the bandwagon.

sponsible for the early rugby ed-

ucation of Paul Burnell, the Scot-

land prop, and two England A players, Matthew Dawson and

Justyn Cassell of Northampton.

occasional presence of the Eng-land squad using its facilities, the

hig-time connection ends, even

But with them, and with the

did this should never play rug- French rugby union internationals yesterday opened dis-An investigation by Waterloo cussions with Bernard Lapasset, president of the French federgot nowhere because no one would own up. Keith Alderson, ation (FFR) about what payments they can receive this season. "We shall merely ask the club secretary, said: "It apthey begin their tour at Brid-gend on 21 October.

The London Irish lock pears there was a fracas, but there is no way anything can be substantiated. Our coaching him to allow us to be involved in commercial operations withstaff have spoken to all our playout asking for the federation's

the country," said Peter Bradley,

who at 44 doubles as club chair-man and third-team lock.

to play for Marlow comes because

you live in or near the town. We

play the same game as the England players but the difference is

they are professional athletes

"But at our level the incentive

The men of Marlow - (from left) coach Lindsay Renwick, captain Dave Vickers and Brendon Lock - fork out £5 a week to play

in anthority over Marlow. How

in the world, even in this afflu-

ent part of that country, could they afford it? Yet, far as they

may be from rugby's new pro-

fessionalism or even its Fifth Di-

vision South, they can foresee a day when they might just have to: For now, the first team are

lucky to get 200 people watch-

ing them but there is potential

of a different kind: Marlow

provide a game of rugby for

more than 600 people of all ages

every weekend. "We are a ma-

jor club in terms of numbers; I

by again."

involvement."

approval," prop Laurent Benezech said. approval. France publicly rejected professionalism despite the In-ternational Rugby Board's decision to open up the sport The players are against formal contracts at either Test or club level, but want to extend the ex-isting "charter of high-level

S Africa send Twickenham records tumbling French open money talks players", which has dictated added. "There is no way we can payments to French internationals in recent seasons. The 50 to 60 players involved want Lapasset to renegotiate that char-contracts worth over £100,000

> form of contract". Lapasset, also chairman of the IRB, added that he was in favour of players receiving fixed payments for each selection. plus win bonuses and fees for promotion campaigns organised by the FFR.

He also said the FFR had only Fr140m (£18m) a year to pay clubs, officials and players. About Fr20m would be invested in paying the players, he

compete with what Australian ferring to reports of Wallaby ter, which the FFR president a year. Lapasset denied a ru-admits "can be considered as a mour that the payments a French player is allowed to receive annually would he limited to Fr300,000.

Photograph: Robert Hallam

problem with that at all." Nor

would Vickers: "The freedom to

pay players has very limited im-

pact on us, but that's not to say

it woo't develop as we move up

In that case spare a thought for Marlow's coach, Lindsay

Renwick, a London Scot who

the league."

The main bone of contention between the FFR and the players is likely to be the intentinn by some internationals in launch an association to defend their rights. "We want to create an association of players to respond quickly and efficiently to the queries uf sponsors, Benezech said.

TODAY'S NUMBER

6.9m

The number of US dollars (£4.5m) on offer in prize money at the Australian Tennis Open in January. The singles champions will each receive £281,000, a rise of 17 percent on 1995.

SPORTING DIGEST Radminton

Compulsory collapse for the Russians Gymnastics

ers and they have all denied any

WRLES A'Y FB, Bridgend, 21. Oct; J Thomas (Lanelli); A Herris (Bearsea), G Jones, G Thomas (Bridgend), W Proctor (Lanelli); A Device (Cardiff), P John (Portyond), capt; A Levis (Cardiff), R IdeBryde, S John (Lianelly, G Proser (Portypridd), A Moore (Swarsea), A Gibbs (Portypridd), S Williams; (Visath), O Lloyd (Lanell), Replacements: M Taylor (Swarsea), M McCardiff (Lianell), R Howley (Bridgend), I. Mastoe (Cardiff), A Lamerton (Lianell), C Wyert (Nestri).

Leonid Arkney, Russia's team manager, blamed himself for the dismal performance by his side the pre-tournament favourites in the men's team event on the third day of the World Championships at Sabae, Japan, yesterday.

Arkaev admitted his team now had very little chance of winning a medal. "They may have ignored the importance of the compulsories. I am ready to take responsibility for this as the delegation chief," he said. Russia slumped to 11th place

while Belarus, equally optimistic of gold, fared little better, lying eighth after last year's champion, lvan Ivankov, fell during the horizontal har exercise. However, Belarus were boosted by the performance of Vitaly Scherbo, winner of six Olympic golds in 1992. He registered a total 56.674 points, the third highest individual score. Russia's Evgeny Chabacy, who won the World Student Games overall individual title in August, scored 54.925. After the completion of the compulsory section, Japan held

on to their slim lead over the de-

fending champions, China, with

the United States third.

INTERNATIONAL MATCH (Maidenhead, final author of saries of slot; Chian 3 England 2 (Englandes for the first hard). Chian 3 England 2 (Englandes for the first) Main's singlest Provides but to 6 Quen 31-15 15-12 15-6. Mean's doublest in Fourting and J Robertson In Proving and W 13-6 15-6. Western's singlest T Groves for they 2-11-11. Western stouthests Growers and Further lets to 0 Hong and W U 7-15 10-15. Western to 0 Hong and W U 7-15 10-15. Western to 7 Proving and 5 March 15 (2-15) allowed doublest J Quinn and S Hardaket IX 2 First; and 6-15 15-9 15-4. England with series 4-2.

Tony Peña hit a solo home run with two outs in the bottom of the 13th inning to give the Indians a dramatic 5-4 victory over the Boston Red Sox in Cleveland's first play-off game in 41 years. hind, take a 1-0 lead in the best-of-five division play off sense with their first post-season victory in 47 years. NUTROWAL LEASUE Play-offs first games in bast-of-fire carless, Communi 7 Los Angeles 2; Allanza 5 Colorado 4.

AMERICAN LEAGUE Play-offs (first games in best-of-five serios): New York 9 Seattle 6; Cleve-land 5 Boston 4 (13 Immigs). Basketball

David Ransom yesterday stepped down as the chief executive of the English Bas-ketball Association, after four years in Cricket

Cricket

ENGLAND A TEAM ITMERRARY FOR TOUR OF
PANSTAIN (Party bases 26 Oct; 1 Nov. Pav.
stan Croice Board XI (one-day metri) (Karach).

3: Pakstan Croice Board XI (one day) (Franch).

11-14: Pavstan Croice Board XI (one day) (Lerach).

11-14: Pavstan Croice Board XI (our days) (Lerach).

11-14: Pavstan Croice Board XI (our days) (Lerach).

11-14: Pavstan Croice Board XI (our days) (Lerach).

12-7: Parton's XI (four days) (Salkot).

20: Nov4 Deal Second Tiest' (New days) (Pavshawar).

15: Fist, one-day international (Passhawar).

16: Second Pre-day international (Passhawar).

17: Pav one-day international (Passhawar).

18: Second Pre-day international (Passhawar).

19: Second Pre-day international (Passhawar).

10: Second Pre-day international (Passhawar).

10: Deamound Haumes. The former West In
Deamound Haumes. The former West Inbe standard. Le began to brown earner. Desmond Haynes, the former West In-dies captain, has been appointed Sus-sex's first-team coach on a three-year contract. The 39-year-old, who played in 116 Tests for his country, will take up his new position before the start of next season.

Matthew Maynard, the former England batsman, has been appointed captain

of Glamorgan for the 1996 season. He moves up from vice-capitain to succeed Hugh Morris, who stepped down at the end of last season.

Football

Rath Rovers' Uefa Cup second round, first leg match against Bayern Munich will take place at Hiberman's Easter Road ground on Tuesday 17 October, instead of in Germany. The reverse leg will be played on Tuesday 31 October.

TUESDAY'S LITE RESILIES: Oce-Octo Cup second manual late. Resilies: Revented in 10th. TIESDAY'S LATE RESILUS: Occa-Colo Cup ecc-ced reand second legt Bournemouth 1 (Od-bury 120) Warbord 1 (Bassley 119) Jarbar eara úrea, aggregaer 2-2 Warbord with 6-5 ort panal-rest Charbon 3 Newton 21, Leubum 79, Robn-son B7) Wirnbiedon 3 Holdsmorth 31, pen 81, Earle 461 (set, Charbon with 6-7 on aggregate); passech 1 (Thomsen 25) Stockport sin 3-2 on ag-gregate); Queen's Park Rangers 2 (Resoly 70, Gallern 91) Odord Urd 1 (Robinson 12) last, QPR with 3-2 on aggregate). TRANSFER: Nicky Colemn (enallyceper) TRANSFER: Nicky Colgan (goalkeeper) Chelses to Milwall (loan).

GOTS

WORREN'S HOKEE INTERNATIONAL CHARRENONSHIP (Wredbarn): England v Scotland (Englands in Stotlands): England v Scotland (Englands in Stotlands): England v Scotland (Englands in Stotlands): A Charleston of A Rose and L Nicholson 4 and 3, E Duggiety and E Facis, bit Rosburgh and A Lang 3 and 2, E Ratcliffe and K Shuples bit J Ford and S McKesser 4 and 3. Foursoness: England 3. Scotland 0, Singles: Hall haked with Rose: Watton haked with Monaghard J Oliver to Nicholson 4 and 3; Reids to Rosburgh 3 and 2; Stupples bit in McMasser had needs. S Lambert lost to Ford and and one. Singless: England 3 Scotland 3. Martch result: England 3 Scotland 3. Martch result: England 2 Scotland 3. Inclinal v Wales (in James Brig): Foursoness: E Rose Power and H Kowangh lost to L Democh and B Johns 1 hole, V Clossof and S Foursoness: Inclinad 2 Wales 1. Power lost to Democh 2 and 1; Rayma and E Pigam 6 and 5. Foursoness: Inclinad 2 Wales 1. Power lost to Democh 2 and 1; Rayma in Richards 4 and 3; Stagless: Inclinad 2 Wales 3. Lessofs in Stagless: Inclinad 2. Wales 3. Lessofs in Stagless Inclinad 3. Lessofs in Stagless Inc

Gymnastics Gypernastics
World Charletonships (Subse, Japan):
Leading men's individual standings after computeriases 1. L. Keeshuang (Ch) 56.987 pts; 2.
H Tanska (Lapan) 55.900; 3 V Scherbo (Bala) 56.674. Leading septent's individual standings after computeries: 1 6 (segsen (Rom) 38.799 pts; 2. D. Keehethona (Rus) 38.762; 3.
S. Micrits Standings after computering computerioris. 1. Japan;

voted to change the League structure for the 1996/97 season. The First Dr-vision will comprise 12 clubs, playing home and away, and a Second Division of 24 clubs, playing each other once

Pools news UTILINOODS DIVIDENOS for matches played 30 September: Treble chance: 24pta 128.401.70, 23 £358.05, 22 £27.45, 21 £7.20, 20 £1.60, Four degree; £13.95, 10 homes: £458.00. Five energy: £202.45,

VERNONS: Trable chance: 24pts £12,750.20. 23 £161.10, 22 £13.50, 21 £4.10, 10 homes: £1,868.00. Five eweys: £37.75. 221 EPSC Tribble channer: 24pts £5,287 ±0. 221 EPSC Tribble channer: 24pts £5,287 ±0. 22 £41.85, 22 £3.00, 21 £0.60, Easy size £25.80, Four draws: £32.20, Eight homes: £48.40, Four ways: £54.20, Cooks galore (pad on £58 gaols): £2.10.

Salling Rupert Murdoch, the Australian media magnate, has added salling to his tele-vised sports by backing plans to launch a racing circuit for 18-foot skills in Britain.

THAILAND CLASSIC (Bengkok) Second round: 5 Herdry (Scot ht P Ebdon (Eng 5-4;) Higgns (Scot ht A MeManus (Scot 5-4; O Finbow (Eng) ht J Wattann (Then 5-4; J Perrott (Eng) ht T Drago (Malte) 5-4. Quarter-finals: Herdry ht

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Football

7.30 unless stated
PONTINS LEAGUE First Division: Botton Wordere's v Everton (7.01; Derby County v Nottingnam Forest 17.01; Sheffised Wednesday v
West Bromstch Alboin 17.01; Notes County v
Teamnere Rovers (7.0). Second Division: Bradford City v Coverity City (7.0); Sundersind v
Presson (7.0); York v Hull City (7.0). Third Division: Stockport County v Chester (6.45).
AVON INSURRANCE COMBINATION First Division: Southampton v Wartford (at Staple-

Table tennis

EMOPEN TOTALIS Super Division (Namur): Beigium 4 England 1 (Bol namos first: A Podpinia loss to Chen Yorkus 16-21-21-12 13-21; J M Sane ti A Cooke 21-16-23-6; P Sane ti M Syod 19-21-21-14-21-11; J M Sane ti Chen 21-14-28-21-21-10; P Sane and J M Sane ti Cooke and B Bulangon 21-13-13-21-21-13.

TOURDUSE MEN'S INDOOR TOURNAMENT First rounds; F Santoro IFri bt L. Barthes: IFri 6-4 6-3: F DeWalf (Beh bt M Sinner (Ger) 6-2 6-2; M Rosset (Swit) bt D Norman (Beh 6-2 7-6: A Boetsch (Bri b) A Chesnakov (Rua) 6-3 6-4; K Nucser (Sloud) bt G Forget (Fri 7-6 6-3; J Van Herck (Beh bt) Sicmennik (Neth) 4-5 w o. Saconal rounds DeWalf bt) Specimen (Swe) 7-6 4-6 6-3; Russet bt R Reneberg (US) 6-7 6-16-4; Kucera bt G Forget (Fri 7-6 6-3)

LIA ALITURAN SATELLITE (Not 7 - 15 - 16; Brothern (Left for In West 1631 - 1-3 - 1-5; Pullin ISA) by 5 herichora (US) 3-6 7-6 - 4; I Hend IGB) by 0 Sanders IGB) 6-4 6-4; E Heasner (Fr) by N Goold (GB) 6-3 6-4; C Heuberger (Swel) by M Wahlerbett (SA) 8-2 5-7 6-1; J Unschenger (Au) by M Wahlerbett (SA) 8-2 5-7 6-1; J Unschenger (Swel) by M Wahlerbett (SA) 6-2; G Mandi (Jatt) by N Jones (GB) 6-4 6-4; C Beecher (GB) by 1 N Jones (GB) 6-6 4-6 -4; C Beecher (GB) by 1 N Jones (GB) 6-6 3-3; Olden (Den) by Undordrife (GB) 6-7 7-8 6-4; K Plastek (Den) by J Dawson (GB) 6-7 7-5 6-1; O Barabanschikova (Bela) by J Abe (Ga) 6-4 8-4; C Taylor (GB) by M Woldhambr (Swel Ga) 6-4 8-4; C Taylor (GB) by M Woldhambr (Swel Ga) 6-6 6-1; S Finer (Swel) by S 15e (GB) 6-0 6-3; S Smith (GB) by A Hopmans (Necth) 6-4 6-3.

Speedway

PREMIER LEAGUE: Ipswich v Peterborough (7.30); Middlestrough v Glasgow (7.30); Shel-field v Poole (7.45).

Other sports GOLP: Women's home internation TENNES: Men's and women's swelte tourner



WHO IS LIZZIE JELFS?

She is 19 and the best Briton in one of our major sports. Which one?

Davies plans return to union at Cardiff

Rugby Union Correspondent

Jonathan Davies met with Gareth Davies, the Cardiff chief executive, yesterday and eximmediately to rugby union if Warrington could be persuaded to release him from the remaining 21 months of his rugby league contract.

There was even a suggestion signed - albeit provisionally -

set that news of the meeting of the Davieses had leaked out. It is clearly a sensitive matter to be talking to one club in one code while contracted to another in another.

Davies, who spent his senior union career with Neath and Llanelli, has also been linked with Harlequins. It would be a historic day if the transition took place aod, though he is oearly 33 and has been gone nearly six that the stand-off had already years, by far the most encour-

bility would have been unthinkable. Davies's way has beeo cleared by the International Rugby Football Board's acceptance last weekend of a free gangway from rugby league into the oewly professionalised rugby union and already the Australian lock Garrick Morgan

has takeo advantage.
The Rugby Football Union in
England favours a six-month stand-down for converts -- thereby making the Harlequins option impossibly unattractive - but the Welsh have no such compunc-

py to have Davies and anyone else whenever they could come.

He will oot be alone. "Jonathan will set the groundrules for everyone else," David Young, like Davies in Cardiff for the Rugby League World Cup, said. Phil Ford, another member of the Welsh squad, said yesterday during a visit to the Arms Park that he intended rejoining union at the end of the tournament. Ford would be keen to join his brother, Steve, at Cardiff, with Pootypridd a

the next week whether to release Davies and for how much. Cardiff's interest has caused them to appreciate that their asset has a value over and above the salary they would save but Davies appears to have made up his mind and Cardiff are impatieot to sign him before the Heineken League cut-off point at the end of the month.

While Gareth Davies was preparing to meet Graham Armstrong the Warrington chief executive, Peter Higham, the chairman, was declaring that

and no negotiations were taking place. Which used to be the way chairmen talked when they were about to conclude a major signing from rugby union.

However, Higham did make his club's position clear: "Jonathan is under contract until 30 June 1997 and if he was to leave before then we would expect to be compensated as we would in the case of any player."

This may be less of a stumbling block than it appeared yesterday. "We told them quite clearly that there is no big mon-

contracts," Gareth Davies said. The position is that they have to ask themselves whether they bave an unhappy player not performing to his best or whether they allow him to return."

Yesterday Jonathan Davies' only comment, on BBC Radio move again it's back to Wales. The family want to come home and hopefully it can be sorted

out on friendly terms. John Dawes, the former Wales and Lions captain and coach, has already called for his



Wales's outside-half but its cap. tain as soon as he is re-signed; Merlow happy to pay, page 31,

'Hauge hitch' in **Bohinen** transfer

Football PHIL SHAW

Blackburn Rovers' bid to sign Lars Bohinen, Nottingham Forest's Norwegian international midfielder, was close to collapse last night because of the possible iovolvement of the disgraced agent, Rune Hauge, in the proposed £700,000 transfer.

Hauge, whose licence was suspended by Fifa, football's world governing body, after his role in the George Graham affair, does not officially act for Bobineo. The player's agent when he joined Nottingham Forest from Young Boys Berne two years ago was a Swiss lawyer, Andy Gross, but speculatioo about Hauge's part in brokering his projected move to Ewood Park prompted Blackburn to seek clarification from the FA before proceeding.

Both Blackburn and Bohinen would face severe peoalties from Fifa if the deal went through and it transpired that Hauge, a fellow Norwegian, had any sort of role in it. An FA official warned last night that the player could be banned for 12 mooths and fined 50,000 Swiss francs (£28,000).

Among the penalties Black burn might face were a fice of 100,000 Swiss francs, a worldwide ban from all transfer activity and possible suspension from football. In the circumstances, the champions seem certain to put their pursuit of Bohinen on hold until they are certain of Hauge's role.

The FA official added: "We have written to Blackburn to ask for their observations on Mr Hauge's alleged involvement." However, the Forest manager, Frank Clark, cast doubt on suggestions that Hauge might be working behind the scenes. Clark confirmed that Hauge bad not been involved when Bohinen came to Nottingham from Berne. "Tve never dealt with Mr Hauge in connectioo with Lars at any stage of his time with us," be said. "I'd be very surprised if he was sorting this

One transfer that did go through yesterday saw Ruel Fox complete his £4.2m move from Newcastle to Tottenham. There was no burry [to complete the deal] as Ruel could not play in our Coca-Cola tie at Chester and we doo't have a League game until Saturday week," Gerry Francis, the Spurs

manager, said.

"Ruel is just what we need,"
Francis added. "He's a quality player capable of playing on either flank or down the middle. He proved his capabilities last season wheo be hit 10 goals in 40 League games to finish only a couple behind Newcastle's leading scorer, Peter Beardsley."

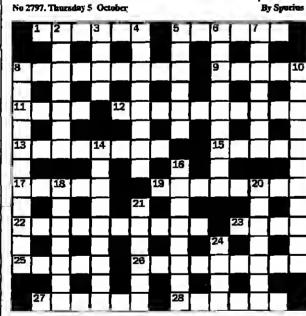
The 27-year-old loswich-born player was oo the verge of England bonours after playing a leading role as Norwich City finished third in the Premiership in 1993, and subsequently enjoyed a successful Uefa Cup run. He moved north to Newcastle for .25m in February last year.



Gascoigne blow page 31 Germany's Andreas Wecker goes airborne at the World Gymnastics Championships in Sabae, Japan, yesterday. Details, Sporting Digest, page 37

Photograph: Reut

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD



a place in the city (6) Backing for newspaper the 25 For clearing – a collection of 7 Viennese should hold in es-

teem (6)

8 Bland, unoriginal piece sure 26 Make statutory provision afto come in for a pasting (9)

9 A dessert's sent back—it's on 27 Goods hastily disposed of, in (11) the cool side (5)

11 Fool takes on dangerous 28 Comeback for Jerusalem bends no matter what (4) 12 Chips, for instance, produced by a virtuoso? (4, 6) 2
13 Phone located by the fence?

 Light from church on hill (5) 3
 Living quarters about to be provided for chaplain (5) 4 19 It makes you sick generally

no end to it (8) 22 Problem involving an inordinate oumber of units? (10)

23 Long-range weapon has 6 South African endorsement Assurance concessionaire

He'll usually have several layers around him (7) Spell disaster? (6, 5)

Church in middle of island

stands on these rocky, glacial pressman is rumoured (6) features (3, 6) 16 Requirement for photography exhibition put on by Enfield, maybe? (5-3) Having organic disease caused by chewing pencils? 18 Passing with oo difficulty Ready to complain, having after a month? (7) 20 I'm embraced by girl with

ugly face (7) 21 Race attack involves leading characters in loathsome organisation (6) an everyday occurrence (6) 24 Fizzy drink bottled in Hast-

Edmundo in new fracas

Overseas football

Edmundo, the Brazilian striker who is nicknamed the "Animal". was involved in a brawl as a South American Supercup quarter-fi-nal ended in an ugfy brawl. Flamengo were 3-0 up against Velez Sarsfield of Argentina in

injury time on Tuesday night when Edmundo - who had scored one goal and set up another - slapped defender Zan-dona after being struck by the Argentinian's elbow in a challenge for the ball. Zandona responded with another slap and then punched the Brazilian striker to the ground. Within seconds, the match degenerated into a fight with players and coaching staff from both teams swapping punches and king-fu kicks.

Dozens of police separated the two sides before the referee, Ernesto Filipi, ended the

they'll get a fight," Washington Rodrigues, the radio commentator turned Flamengo manager, said after the match. Edmundo's striking partner,

Romario, apparently was pre-pared for the punch-up. "This is the kind of thing we expect from the Argentines," he said. As well as Edmundo's goal, an own goal by Pellegrino in the first half and a late strike by Romario gave Flamengo their 3-0 win and a 6-2 aggregate victory. The Supercup is contested by former

winners of South America's

Copa Libertadores for nation-

al champions. In Germany, Uwe Seeler, the former international striker, yesterday took over as chairman of his old club. Hamburg, with the aim of steering it out of its current cosis. A statement issued by Seeler and the club's treasurer, Gerhard Flomm, one

the changes were purely in the interests of the club, and that the move by the former player was not inspired by emotion.

Seeler, 58, who played for West Germany against England in the 1966 World Cup final and shares the record of 21 World Cup appearances, will take over oo an interim basis pending a 27 November annual meeting.

Hamburg are next to the bottom of the Bundesliga without a win all season, and speculation is rife that coach Benno Möhlmann is about to be sacked, possibly in favour of his. deputy and former Hamburg player, Felix Magath.

Seeler is still a hero at the club where he remains the alltime top scorer with 137 goals. Hamburg, who won the European Cup in 1983 when Magath scored the goal that beat Juventus in the final, bave been



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Duplicated English exercise

Open University student ai-

most swallowed by fish - not

externally assessed (8)

of two board members who de-cided to step down to make way for a group led by Seeler, said lifting the German Cup in 1987. "If they want a fight, then Hendry secures swift victory

Snooker

Stephen Hendry, the world champion, defeated Terry Griffiths for the 15th time in succession to reach the semi-finals of the Thailand Classic in Bangkok yesterday.

Hendry secured a 5-0 win in 70 minutes and will meet either John Higgins or John Parrott for a place in the final of a tournament which carries a first prize of £40,000.

"I'm not as psyched up for this event as I was for the Regal Masters at Motherwell," Hendry said after the whitewash. "But to stay in that sort of mood week in, week out is very difficult. It also doesn't mean that I don't want to win over here. I reckon I bave as

good a chance as anyone of of 107 then forced the decider picking up the trophy on Sat-Hendry scored breaks of 83.

68, 60 and 40 as he strolled to victory against the new-look Griffiths, who is now wearing glasses. Hendry also bad a 5-0 win in his last meeting with Grif-fiths, in the 1992 Dubai Duty Free, and in overall frames be-tween the pair bolds a 114-38

The unheralded Dave Finand his local fan club by knocking out the home favourite. It was the second-round result the Thai fans did not want as amateur champion, defeated Finbow, a 27-year-old from Jimmy White 5-3 to claim his Worcester, won 5-4.

Finbow, ranked 47th in the 7 in four attempts. world, led 3-0 but after seven frames was one behind. A break

before he wrapped up the "Considering where I was

and what happened, this has to be a very special win for me," Finbow said. "But I couldn't believe some of the shots James played. He had the first frame in the bag, but then somebow gave me the chance to win it on the black.

"I thought the crowd might be a little partisan, but they were bow stunned James Wattana great throughout the match and applauded when I played some good shots."

Joe Swail, a former English first victory over the world No

Results, Sporting Digest

